MARVEL

FANTASTIC FOUR

BY JONATHAN HICKMAN

THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

THE WORLD'S GREATEST
COMIC MAGAZINE

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FANTASTIC FOUR

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FUTURE FOUNDATION

VOL TWO

THE SUPREMOR SEED

THIS WILL REQUIRE A WITNESS

MONTHS AGO...

THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY IT COULD END...

IN BLOOD AND ASH...

AND THE LOSS OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN.

It was a battle between two empires...

It was a war of kings.

BLOOD AND BROKEN BONES. NO QUARTER ASKED, AND NONE GIVEN.

DEATH WAS ASSURED...

A BOMB TO TEAR SPACE AND TIME GUARANTEED IT.

AND UPON DETONATION, THE MIDNIGHT KING--**BLACK BOLT**--RULER OF THE KREE, FIRST AMONG INHUMANS, AND **SON OF PROPHECY** DISAPPEARED INTO THE NEWLY CREATED **FAULT**...

...NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

ACROSS THE COSMOS, HIS FIVE QUEENS CRIED OUT IN DESPAIR-- FOR HIS PASSING SIGNALED THE END OF ALL INHUMAN DREAMS.

EVERYTHING HAD BEEN LOST...

...OR SO IT SEEMED.

YOUR MAJESTY, WHILE WE DO NOT OUTWARDLY OPPOSE PROPORTIONALITY, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT, FOR GENERATIONS, THE EMPIRE HAS FLOURISHED...

HALA.
SEAT OF THE KREE EMPIRE.
WEEKS AGO.

...WITH THE BLUE ELITE MAINTAINING A LARGER...

...SEGMENT OF CONTROL. IS IT WRONG TO REFLECT...

SEE? IT ALL FITS TOGETHER NICELY.

EVERYTHING COMES TOGETHER IF YOU CAN SEE THE ORDER WITHIN THE CHAOS.

I'VE GOT A PLAN...

A BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL PLAN.

I SUGGEST YOU LOOK AROUND AND SEE WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

AL-VOKK, WHAT YOU SUGGEST... I NO LONGER BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE.

THE SEED, RONAN. *WE KNOW YOU HAVE IT!*

LEAVE NOW...

I WILL PRETEND YOU WERE NOT HERE.

I WILL PRETEND I DID NOT HEAR WHAT YOU SAID.

SNIFF SNIFF

KRAAASH

HALA.
SEAT OF THE KREE EMPIRE.
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.

ACCUSER HURAN...

THIS IS THE SCIENCE OFFICER, VON-WARR, AND THE WEAPONIZED BIOLOGIST, RY-NOOR.

FOLLOW ME.

SUPREME INTELLIGENCE. YOUR GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED.

I WILL WAIT BEYOND THE THRESHOLD, SHOULD YOU NEED ME.

STAY, ACCUSER...THIS WILL REQUIRE A WITNESS.

YOU HAVE A REPORT?

SUCCESS, SUPREMOR.

UNEXPECTED... UNPARALLELED SUCCESS.

GO ON.

INCLUDING OURS, THERE WERE TWENTY-THREE SCIENCE TEAMS... EACH OVERSEEING RESEARCH ON SEVERAL TEST PLANETS.

AS YOU SUGGESTED, WE SEEDED OVER ONE HUNDRED WORLDS USING YOUR METAGENESIS PLAN.

"IT REQUIRES A SPECIFIC, RACE-BASED CATALYST... BUT WITH *EACH SPECIES*, WE HAVE HAD A FAVORABLE OUTCOME."

THERE IS NOTHING WE CANNOT CREATE A WEAPON FROM.

YOU HAVE A RECORD OF THIS?

YOU HAVE DOCUMENTATION?

FOR YOU, SUPREMOR... THE GIFT OF DATA.

UPLOADING...

GIVE US.

TEN PERCENT ACQUIRED...

YOUR RESEARCH MEETS WITH INITIAL APPROVAL FROM NINETY-TWO PERCENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC MINDS CONTAINED WITHIN THE MULTITUDE.

TWENTY PERCENT ACQUIRED...

AH! A CHORUS OF PRAISE IN REGARDS TO THE IMPRINTED GROUP MEMORY--A RECESSIVE MYTHOLOGY. EXCELLENT!

THIRTY PERCENT... THIRTY PERCENT...

THE DATA COALESCES... SUBTEXT IS FORMING... WHAT IS THIS?

ANOMALY.

ACCESSING COSMIC AWARENESS...

SCIENCE! RELIGION!

A GENETIC PROPHECY!

TUNNELING WITHIN.

FORTY PERCENT...

THERE IS DISSENT HERE.

STEP FORWARD, PRIEST.

WHAT HAVE YOU DISCOVERED WITHIN THE FLOW?

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF MINDS CONTAINED WITHIN YOU, SUPREMOR--ONES YOU WOULD MUCH RATHER LISTEN TO. THE GREAT MINDS OF GENETICS AND BIOLOGY. HEROES OF PHILOSOPHY AND CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

SO WHY IS IT THAT A MAN OF RELIGION IS THE LONE VOICE THAT RESONATES?

FIFTY PERCENT...

YOU SEE SOMETHING THEY DO NOT--A FLAW IN PERFECT ORDER. A CRACK IN THE MACHINE.

YES, ***THERE***... HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM NOW...

YOU CAN SEE IT NOW, CAN'T YOU--YOU CAN ***HEAR IT.***

THE DIVINE CHIMERA. YOUR GREAT PLAN OF METAGENESIS WILL PRODUCE SOMETHING UNEXPECTED.

SIXTY PERCENT...

IS THIS FEAR?

IT SHOULD BE.

FOR THERE EXISTS WITHIN THESE WILD STRAINS THE POTENTIAL FOR A BEING OF CONTRADICTION AND OPPOSITION.

HE WILL DEFY YOU, AND LIE BEYOND YOUR CAPACITY TO COMPREHEND.

SEVENTY PERCENT...

I SEE THE CYCLE OF MY DEATH.

WHICH COMES FROM WHAT YOU HAVE CREATED.

YOU HAVE CONSTRUCTED A DIVERGENT PATH, AND IT IS THE SYMBOL OF YOUR END.

EEAAAAH.

OH... AND HALA HELP YOU IF HE COMES FROM A SELECTIVE BREEDING PROGRAM.

AAAHHHEEE

NO.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SUPREMOR?

YES.

TAKE ONE STEP FURTHER AND I SWEAR IT WILL BE YOUR LAST.

EIGHTY PERCENT...

DOES THIS DATA CRYSTAL CONTAIN ALL INFORMATION REGARDING THE METAGENESIS PROGRAM?

SYSTEM LOCATIONS, RACE SPECIFICATIONS, BASES OF OPERATION?

YES.

IT DOES.

NINETY PERCENT...

GOOD. THIS RESEARCH STOPS NOW.

ACCUSER... *KILL THESE MEN.*

NO!

ARRRRGGGGGH!

--MUST SHATTER THE CRYSTAL--

SWASH

WHAM

IT WAS MY LIFE'S WORK.

NINETY-FOUR PERCENT...

IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

SMASH

SUMMON THE CORPS, ACCUSER HURAN.

THIS EMPIRE NEEDS A CLEANSING.

THE ACCUSERS BURNED WORLD AFTER WORLD.

HUNDREDS FELL.

ONLY THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE'S INCOMPLETE DATA PREVENTED UTTER DESTRUCTION.

FIVE WERE SPARED...

FIVE WERE SAVED...

FIVE AND ONE.

FIVE QUEENS FOR THE ONE KING.

IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT IS CONSTANT ABOUT DESTINY-- ONE THING THAT ENDURES THE CHANGING OF SPACE AND TIME... THAT DEFIES EVEN DEATH-- IT IS THIS:

FATE CANNOT BE AVOIDED.

ONE DAY YOU WAKE...AND THE UNIVERSE HAS CONSPIRED TO MAKE OF YOU SOMETHING MORE.

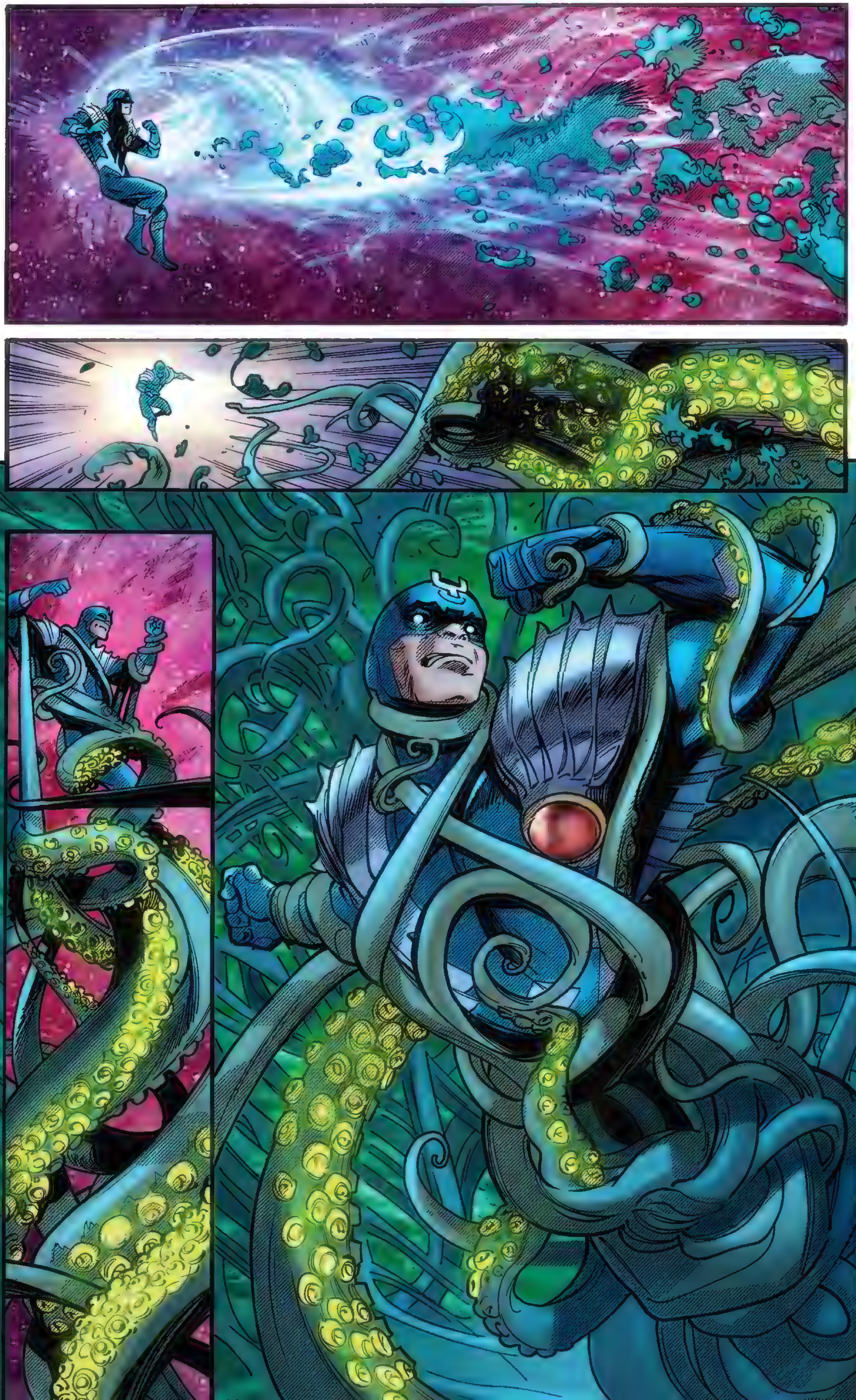
AND THAT DAY?

IT IS NOW.

I AM AWAKE

WITHIN THE FAULT.

RELEASE ME



HALA. HOMEWORLD OF THE KREE.

FOR WEEKS NOW, MINISTER, YOU HAVE SENT YOUR VASSALS BEFORE THIS THRONE...YOU OFFER US SOMETHING DIFFERENT TODAY?

NO. NOR SHOULD I, QUEEN MEDUSA.

WE KREE ELITE REPRESENT CONTROL OF ALMOST ONE HUNDRED KEY IMPERIAL WORLDS...

LOOK OUT, YOUR MAJESTY... LOOK AT THE FACES OF A MILLION YEARS OF GALACTIC DOMINANCE.

YOU CANNOT TAKE THAT AWAY IN...

FWASH

IT CANNOT BE...

IT MOST CERTAINLY IS.

MY LORD...

BLACK BOLT...

HE HAS RETURNED.

RUN, KARNAK. TELL THE OTHERS...

TELL *EVERYONE.*

YOU SPEAK OF DOMINANCE, MINISTER? OF STRENGTH, AND WHERE IT MIGHT BE FOUND?

WHO HERE BUT MY HUSBAND HAS CONQUERED DEATH?

ON YOUR KNEES, KREE.

YOUR *KING* HAS *RETURNED!*

MY LORD, BLACK BOLT!

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR RETURN--*MOST GRATEFUL.*
BUT THINGS HAVE HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE GONE...IN YOUR ABSENCE, THE EMPIRE HAS *SUFFERED.*
THAT IS NOT--
WE ARE BROKEN, AND NOW, THE... *CROWN*...HAS DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO WEAKEN THE EMPIRE FURTHER.

YOU MAY CONTINUE.

YOUR WAR HAS LEFT US *LESS* THAN WHAT WE SHOULD BE.

CURRENT PLANS CALL FOR NECESSARY RESOURCES TO BE DIVERTED FROM THE REBUILDING OF CORE WORLDS--THE HEART OF THE EMPIRE--TO THE MORE NEEDY, HARDER-HIT FRINGE WORLDS.

NOBLE. BUT NOT WHO WE ARE.

WE CELEBRATE OUR WEAK FALLING TO THE STRONG. WE MUST REBUILD HERE AND LET THE RIM STAND SPARTAN...LET THEM EARN THEIR OWN FATE AND BECOME HARD IN DOING SO.

MY LORD... WE HUMBLY *DEMAND* THIS.

ARE... ARE YOU *SURE?*

MY HUSBAND SAYS THAT HE WILL LEAVE THIS DECISION TO RONAN--WHO WILL SERVE AS ACTING REGENT IN OUR ABSENCE.

WHAT?

IT SEEMS THAT WE MUST *IMMEDIATELY* RETURN TO EARTH. WE INHUMANS ARE *SUPPOSED* TO BE THERE.

IT IS A *SUMMONING.*

YOU CAME HERE AND WE GAVE YOU YOUR CROWN.

WE FOLLOWED YOU INTO A WAR THAT ALMOST DESTROYED US...

NOW YOU'RE GOING TO...RUN AWAY?

DO WE ASK TOO MUCH OF YOU? IS THE BURDEN TOO GREAT?

YOU SEEMED EAGER ENOUGH NOT LONG AGO.

TELL US... WHAT IS DIFFERENT, BLACK BOLT?

TELL *ME*...WHAT HAS *CHANGED?*

HE SAYS HE WANTS TO KNOW...

TELL HIM, BROTHER.

I.

AM.

AWAKE!

BLACK BOLT SAYS YOU MAY COME WITH US OR STAY WITH YOUR HUSBAND, CRYSTAL.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

IT IS THE *SUMMONING*, SISTER. OUR TIME HAS COME.

HALA IS YOURS, RONAN. I WISH YOU WELL.

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

ACCUSER!

ACCUSER!

I AM HERE.

WHAT TROUBLES YOU, SUPREMOR?

I CAN NO LONGER DREAM.

ALL I SEE IS MY END. DEATH, *UNAVOIDABLE.*

HE WAITS, OUT THERE...IN ALL POSSIBLE FUTURES.

THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN THERE IS NOTHING BUT SILENCE...NO SOUNDS TO BE HEARD, UNTIL HE STARTS SCREAMING.

THAT WILL BE THE END OF ME.

UNLESS...

UNLESS?

THE MULTITUDE HAS DEVISED...A *STRATAGEM.*

YES?

AN ESCAPE HATCH. A WAY... *THROUGH*... OUR FATE.

BUT IT REQUIRES SOMETHING UNEXPECTED, ACCUSER.

IT REQUIRES... *TRUST.*

NOW, KREE ELITE.

THE SUPREMOR SEED.

HIDE IT FOREVER.

CARRY ITS WEIGHT IN YOUR HEART.

THE MOON.
ONE MONTH AGO.

NO!

THERE'S NO NEED TO...

I CAN EXPLAIN IF YOU...

URK!

HE...HE... HE AND HIS KIND POSE A VERY REAL DANGER TO US.

THEY HAVE...GREAT AND TERRIBLE PLANS.

THEN WE MUST MATCH THEM.

WE MUST...

OH!

HE IS HERE!

OPEN.

WELCOME HOME.

BLACK BOLT THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, PAL DAMOC.

THE SUMMONING WAS SUCCESSFUL?

BEYOND BELIEF, LADY MEDUSA.

IT WAS ALL THAT HE HOPED AND MORE.

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

THE UNIVERSAL INHUMANS.

BLACK BOLT...THESE ARE YOUR PEOPLE.

NOT PRODUCTS OF OUR OWN TERRIGENESIS, BUT OF DIFFERENT AND EQUALLY WONDERFUL PROCESSES.

AND THESE ARE YOUR WIVES...

THE MATRICARCH OOLA UDONTA... A PRODUCT OF ISOGENESIS.

HUSBAND.

QUEEN ALADI KO EKE... WHO EMERGED FROM AMPHOGENESIS.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE WILL HAVE SONS.

FIRST CHAIR ONOMI WHITEMANE... THE BLOOM OF THE ANTIGEN TREE.

MY LORD.

AND THE GODDESS AVOE... THE EXHALED BREATH OF EXOGENESIS.

MASTER.

HUNDREDS FELL AND FIVE REMAINED.

FIVE.

FIVE BRIDES FOR THE ONE KING.

AS WAS FORETOLD...

A GENETIC PROPHECY.

ONE WILL COME WHOSE VOICE WILL SHAKE WORLDS AND MAKE THE UNIVERSE TREMBLE.

A MIGHTY VOICE THAT WILL RULE IN SILENCE.

BUT IN THAT SILENCE, ONE WORD WILL HANG IN THE AIR.

ONE WORD, UNSPOKEN.

WAR.

TAKE THE CITY

THE FOREVER CITY OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.

WE HAVE ARRIVED, BLACK BOLT.

TAKE THE CITY.

IT ALWAYS COMES TO THIS...

THE BAXTER BUILDING.

SO... I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAD A CHAT.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, SUSAN?

FIRST, I'M HAPPY YOU'RE HERE, NATHANIEL. *WE ALL ARE.*

BUT, WHILE REED MAY TRUST YOU IMPLICITLY, I DON'T CARE THAT YOU COME FROM THE FUTURE...I FIND MYSELF STRUGGLING WITH JUST DOING WHAT YOU SAY *'NEEDS TO BE DONE'.*

LIKE?

UNBELIEVABLE...

THERE'S A GANG OF SUPER VILLAINS IN THE NEXT ROOM CLEANING OUT MY REFRIGERATOR. HOW ABOUT WE START THERE?

SUSAN, REALLY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD INCLUDE VALERIA IN THIS AS--

OH... SHE WON'T BE JOINING US. I'VE SENT HER TO HER ROOM.

VAL'S HAVING A TIMEOUT.

AND LOOK AT YOU RIGHT NOW...GEARING UP FOR WAR.

WELL... THIS HAS TO BE DONE.

BECAUSE OF THE REEDS FROM OTHER WORLDS?

UNIVERSES, DEAR.

DON'T START WITH ME.

SUSAN, I DON'T SEE HOW YOU COULD BE UPSET WITH ME ABOUT THAT...UNLESS YOU WEREN'T TOLD EVERYTHING.

REED?

I'VE EXPLAINED WHAT HAPPENED.

THAT YOU REBUILT THE BRIDGE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DESTROY.

YES.

THAT LED YOU TO THE COUNCIL. WHERE OTHER YOUS ABANDON THEIR FAMILIES SO THAT THEY CAN FOCUS ON BIGGER, MORE IMPORTANT THINGS, LIKE SAVING WORLDS.

I DID.

AND THAT THEY GOT LOOSE HERE BECAUSE YOUR DAUGHTER WAS ABLE TO BREAK INTO YOUR IMPENETRABLE LAB.

YEAH, DAD... I TOLD HER ALL OF IT.

WELL, THAT'S GOOD, SON...A MAN SHOULDN'T KEEP SECRETS FROM HIS WIFE.

SO... GETTING BACK ON POINT, HOW AGAIN IS ANY OF THIS MY FAULT?

FINE, NATHANIEL. FINE.

WHAT ABOUT VICTOR?

YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHY DOCTOR DOOM HAS TO BE WITH US?

NO, SUSAN...I DO NOT.

KHUU-CHUNK

HERE'S WHAT I WILL TELL YOU, THOUGH.

SACRIFICES WERE MADE IN THE FUTURE SO THAT YOU COULD AVOID THE THINGS I HAVE SEEN FIRSTHAND.

KNOW THAT IF THEY SUCCEED, THESE REEDS WILL CRACK THIS PLANET OPEN AND WHAT FOLLOWS WILL MAKE THAT SEEM LIKE SPRING.

I PREPARE FOR WAR, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.

I'M SORRY IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY.

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU OUTSIDE, SON.

WELCOME HOME, DAD...STAY FOR A WHILE. IT'LL BE NICE.

I'LL GET READY.

NO. YOU HAD A CONCUSSION LESS THAN THREE HOURS AGO...DOCTOR'S ORDERS--YOU HAVE TO SIT THIS ONE OUT.

CHECK ON ALEX AND KEEP THE REST OF THE KIDS SAFE.

BE CAREFUL.

HOW'D IT GO?

WHAT'S YOUR LEAST FAVORITE THING TO DO?

DENTIST.

THEN ROOT CANAL.

SORRY TO PILE ON, THEN...

WHAT?

THEY INSISTED ON GOING. ALL OF THEM.

WONDERFUL.

AT LEAST I GOT THEM INTO COSTUME.

REED RICHARDS...

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE FOUNDATION.

THE FOREVER CITY.

MY GOD...THAT'S ATTILAN.

THE INHUMANS HAVE RETURNED.

BETTER SPORT THEN...

"TAKE US IN, RICHARDS."

VICTOR, THE PROTECTIVE SPELL NEEDS TO KEEP OUT THE ASCENSION ENGINE'S--

I KNOW WHAT TO DO, RICHARDS.

WE ARE SHIELDED FROM THE RADIATION.

HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?

THE SPELL WILL HOLD.

OKAY... AS WE DISCUSSED... WE HAVE TO STOP THE ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF MYSELF.

YOU KNOW YOUR GROUPS?

WUH-WUH- WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO WHEN WE FIND TH-TH-TH-THEM?

WHY ASK THAT QUESTION?

JUST KILL THEM AND BE DONE WITH IT.

RISKY. WHO CAN KNOW WHAT LIES IN THEIR HEARTS? REMEMBER, FOR THE RIGHTEOUS, HEAVEN IS A REWARD.

ALSO-- FOOLISH...WE NEED INFORMATION.

ONLY KILL TWO.

DR. RICHARDS, THEY HAVE ALSO ALTERED MY ENGINE... IT WILL HAVE TO BE DISABLED.

I WILL HANDLE THAT.

OKAY... NOW...

LET'S GO.

OOOOFFF!

YOU REMEMBER WHO I AM?

YES, MAKER.

PLEASE TAKE ME TO THE MACHINE.

UHHH, SHOULDN'T WE HAVE SPLIT UP TO KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE GUYS?

I THOUGHT OF THAT, BUT THE ODDS OF ONE OF THEM TURNING ON US WAS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

DO ANY OF YOU TRUST THEM?

I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INHUMANS...WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?

THEY SEEM UNAFFECTED BY THE ENGINE.

CONTROLLED EVOLUTION, TERRIGENESIS... SELECTIVE BREEDING.

COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF THINGS. BUT I'M GUES--

HEY! DO YOU HEAR THAT?

IMPOSSIBLE...

"I THOUGHT BLACK BOLT WAS DEAD."

THE BAXTER BUILDING.

CONNECT THE RED WIRE TO THE YELLOW WIRE AND...

FSSHHH

UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS DENIED. ACCESSING MESSAGE: VAL0024

YOU KNOW BETTER, YOUNG LADY. LOVE, DAD.

TIMEOUT EXTENDED TWENTY MINUTES.

RRAAAARR!

SMAASSHH

TIMEOUT EXTENDED FORTY MINUTES.

HUH?

FFSSSSSSSHHHHHHHH

FFSHHH

CH-CHUNK

SO... IT'S SNACK TIME.

ANYONE IN HERE HUNGRY?

THE FOREVER CITY.

I AM NOT AFRAID OF PERSECUTION...

HAVE YOU HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?

THE WIZARD JUST WENT DOWN.

GOOD.

HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, SPIDER-MAN?

WE'RE FINE.

THESE GUYS ACTUALLY MAKE A PRETTY GOOD BARRICADE.

CHECK OVER THERE, SON.

YEAH. I'VE GOT TWO OF THEM-- WAIT...

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE *HIM.*

WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM. NO ONE MENTIONED THAT ONE OF THE REEDS THAT CAME THROUGH WAS...

DAD, WE MAY HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS ALL WRONG...

THIS MIGHT NOT BE A--

ZZMMMMMMMM

HUH?

HELLO, REED.

CONSIDERING THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS FIGHT, I WAS WONDERING HOW LONG IT WOULD BE BEFORE YOU APPEARED.

YOUR PRESENCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED IN ATTILAN.

NO, MEDUSA! *WAIT!*

DON--

ZZMMMMMMMM

THAT'S IT, CONCENTRATE YOUR FIRE.

THERE'S TRADITIONALLY BEEN A WEAK SPOT WHERE THE ALPHA PRIMITIVE SUBSTRUCTURE MEETS THE MAIN--

WHAT!

PREDATOR

RRR ZAP RRRR!

AH...A DOOM!

YOU PICKED THE WRONG DAY TO INTERFERE WITH OUR PLANS--

DO NOT SPEAK AGAIN UNLESS IT IS TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

UNDERSTAND?

NOW... WHAT DOES YOUR WEAPON DO?

HOW DOES IT WORK?

I'M NOT... WHA?

EH?

ARRRRRGGH!

FWAASHHHH

LOOK AT THAT, DIABLO...HE DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR THE VARIABLES. HE DIDN'T CONSIDER THE OPTIONS.

YOU HAVE TO FACTOR EVERYTHING IN BEFORE YOU CAN FACTOR US OUT. SOLVE FOR X, VICTOR! SOLVE FOR X!

OR YOU COULD JUST LAY THERE AND BURN.

JUST LIKE EVERYONE WILL.

JUST LIKE THE WORLD.

THIS IS

INHUMAN

JUSTICE

HRRNNNN

FIRE?

YOU'D TRY TO KILL ME WITH *FIRE?*

FOLLY.

I HAVE BURNED BEFORE...

THE WORLD BE DAMNED...

DOOM ENDURES.

NOW...

URK!

WAIT, WAIT!

THIS IS WRONG...ALL WRONG...

YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING, VICTOR...THE *UNEXPECTED!* THAT'S THE MISSING ELEMENT HERE--IT'S WHAT THE STORY IS MISSING.

YOU'VE GOT TO DO WHAT NO ONE COULD ANTICIPATE--WHAT NO ONE WOULD SEE COMING. THE VARIABLE IS YOU, VICTOR...YOU HAVE TO *SURPRISE US.*

LET DIABLO GO! LET HIM GO! THE X-FACTOR IS *MERCY.* WHO COULD PREDICT THAT? VICTOR VON DOOM...THE DOCTOR OF COMPASSION, VICTOR THE MAGNANIMOUS...

SHOCK THE WORLD, VICTOR. *SHOCK THE WORLD.*

I THINK NOT.

ZZZARKKKK

AHRRRRGGGHHHH!

ATTILAN
HOVERING ABOVE THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S FOREVER CITY.

INVASION

OH, ATTILAN... HAVE YOU EVER HAD THE HONOR OF SEEING OUR GREAT CITY, NATHANIEL RICHARDS?

I HAVE, YOUR MAJESTY... BUT NEVER THIS *QUAINT*.

ONE THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW, ATTILAN IS MUCH LARGER.

FASCINATING.

AH, HERE THEY COME...

REED, THESE ARE MY NEW SISTERS...

THE WIVES OF OUR KING.

ACTUALLY, WE'VE MET...

IT WAS ON THE MOON, AND SOON AFTER THEY DECLARED THE EARTH TO BE INHUMAN PROPERTY.

A CONVERSATION THAT NEEDS CLARIFYING, BUT TODAY WE HAVE MORE...PRESSING MATTERS.

WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE, MEDUSA?

THAT... IS A QUESTION FOR MY HUSBAND... WHO RETURNS HERE NOW.

BLACK BOLT...IT REALLY IS *YOU*.

WE HAD HEARD...I MEAN...

ARE YOU WELL?

UH, PROBABLY *NOT*...I MEAN, WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND HAS FIVE WIVES?

I'LL JUST GO PLAY WITH THE DOG.

MY HUSBAND WOULD HAVE YOU KNOW THAT HE STILL VALUES YOUR FRIENDSHIP HIGHLY.

BUT YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT HE HAS CHANGED AND THERE ARE THINGS HE MUST DO...

WE READ THE MIND OF THE ALTERNATE REED RICHARDS WE CAPTURED...SO WE KNOW THEIR PLANS.

THOSE PLANS CONFLICT WITH OURS--SO YOU WILL STAND ASIDE WHILE WE DEAL WITH THIS... INCONVENIENCE.

AND WHAT IF I THINK YOU DON'T FULLY GRASP WHAT IS GOING ON HERE--WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH YOUR COURSE OF ACTION?

HUMAN... OUR HUSBAND IS NOT ASKING PERMISSION.

THE BAXTER BUILDING.

YOU CAN'T TRUST ME.

I COULD BE LYING...IN FACT, I PROBABLY AM...

I'M A BAD GUY, YOU KNOW.

SO WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, VAL?

BAG NUMBER ONE? OR BAG NUMBER TWO?

BAG NUMBER TWO.

YOU SURE?

YEAH...YOU KEPT GLANCING AT IT. ONE TIME YOU LICKED YOUR LIPS.

NOW GIMME.

FINE.

POP-TART. NICE.

WHAT WAS IN THE OTHER BAG?

APPLE.

WORST SNACK EVER.

SO WHY'RE WE EATING IN HERE?

OH, I WANTED TO GET YOUR OPINION, BENTLEY--⇢*MUNCH, MUNCH*⇠--WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ROOM?

HERE? COMPLETELY SINISTER. FOREBODING. TOTALLY HOW MY SUPER VILLAIN BASE IS GOING TO FEEL ONE DAY.

UH-HUH. FIGURES.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE UP MY MIND ABOUT ***EXACTLY*** WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THIS.

THANKS FOR BEING HONEST, BENTLEY.

HRMPH. ⇢*CHOMP*⇠

WHATEVER. I COULD BE LYING...

...THIS COULD BE THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

END SNACK BREAK

ATTILAN.

WHY?

WHY?...WHY NOT? HOW LONG DOES THE WORLD WAIT WHILE YOU FAIL?

OBSERVE: A LESSON FOR YOU.

THIS IS INHUMAN JUSTICE.

RAAARRRRR!

WE HAVE TO LEAVE NOW, DR. WITTMAN.

H-H-H-HERE, LUH-LET ME HELP YOU UP.

YES. A MAN CANNOT STAND THE TRIALS OF LIFE ALONE...ESPECIALLY ITS FAILURES...

THERE IS NO ILLUMINATION HERE, ONLY ANGER AND RAGE WHICH BRINGS DEFEAT...

WE MUST RETURN TO THE RIGHTEOUS PATH.

SET OUR TRANSLOCATOR TO *HUMILITY*, DR. FORSON.

HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!

THERE!

OH, EVIL MEN... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY MACHINE?

THE INHUMANS ARE SENDING IN MORE SOLDIERS.

PREPARE TO SHUT DOWN THE ENGINE AND RETREAT. LET THEM HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF VICTORY-- ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE MACHINE REMAINING INTACT.

BAH! ALL THAT MATTERS IS *LIVING!* BETTER MEN WOULD KNOW WHEN THEY ARE BEATEN.

ATTENDANT, SUMMON OUR EXIT.

FAREWELL.

I HOPE THEY PROLONG YOUR PASSING-- DEATH IS TOO GOOD FOR ANY RICHARDS.

FOOL.

HURRY! DISENGAGE THE *EVOLUTIONARY DRIVE.*

TOO LATE.

YOU SEE IT NOW, DON'T YOU?

OUR HEARTLESS PURSUIT OF RESOLUTION.

OUR INHUMAN DRIVE TO TRIUMPH...

THIS IS HOW YOU WIN A WAR.

YOU TELL YOURSELF IT CAN'T BE DONE... NOT AGAIN.

HOW MANY TIMES CAN A MAN CREATE PERFECTION?

APPARENTLY, AS MANY AS HE WANTS, IF THAT MAN'S NAME IS MAXIMUS...

AND WHO AM I?

I AM MAXIMUS!

FWWOOOSHHH

BA-BA-BOOOOOM

THUMP

NOOO!

GIVE UP.

YOU CANNOT WIN.

UHHHHH...

WE... WE ALWAYS WIN.

WE...

SMASSHHHH

AHHH

THIS IS TRITON.

INFORM MY COUSIN THAT WE HAVE CAPTURED ONE OF THEM...

"...THIS WILL BE OVER SHORTLY."

I HAVE THE SECOND ONE.

HIS FLAW WAS EXUBERANCE-- HE BURNED OUT HIS OWN SHIELD.

TAKE HIM UP TO ATTILAN-- THE TRAITORS ALSO...

THEY CAN SIT IN ALPHA HELL WHILE WE PRY ANSWERS FROM THE INTERLOPERS.

I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INVITE YOU TO THE CITY, BUT I SEE FLAWS IN SUCH A PLAN.

PERHAPS YOU WOULD CONSIDER DECLINING?

RRRRRRR... GO HOME, TIN MAN.

ONE DOES NOT GIVE DOOM COMMANDS, IF YOU...

AH...

ACTUALLY...

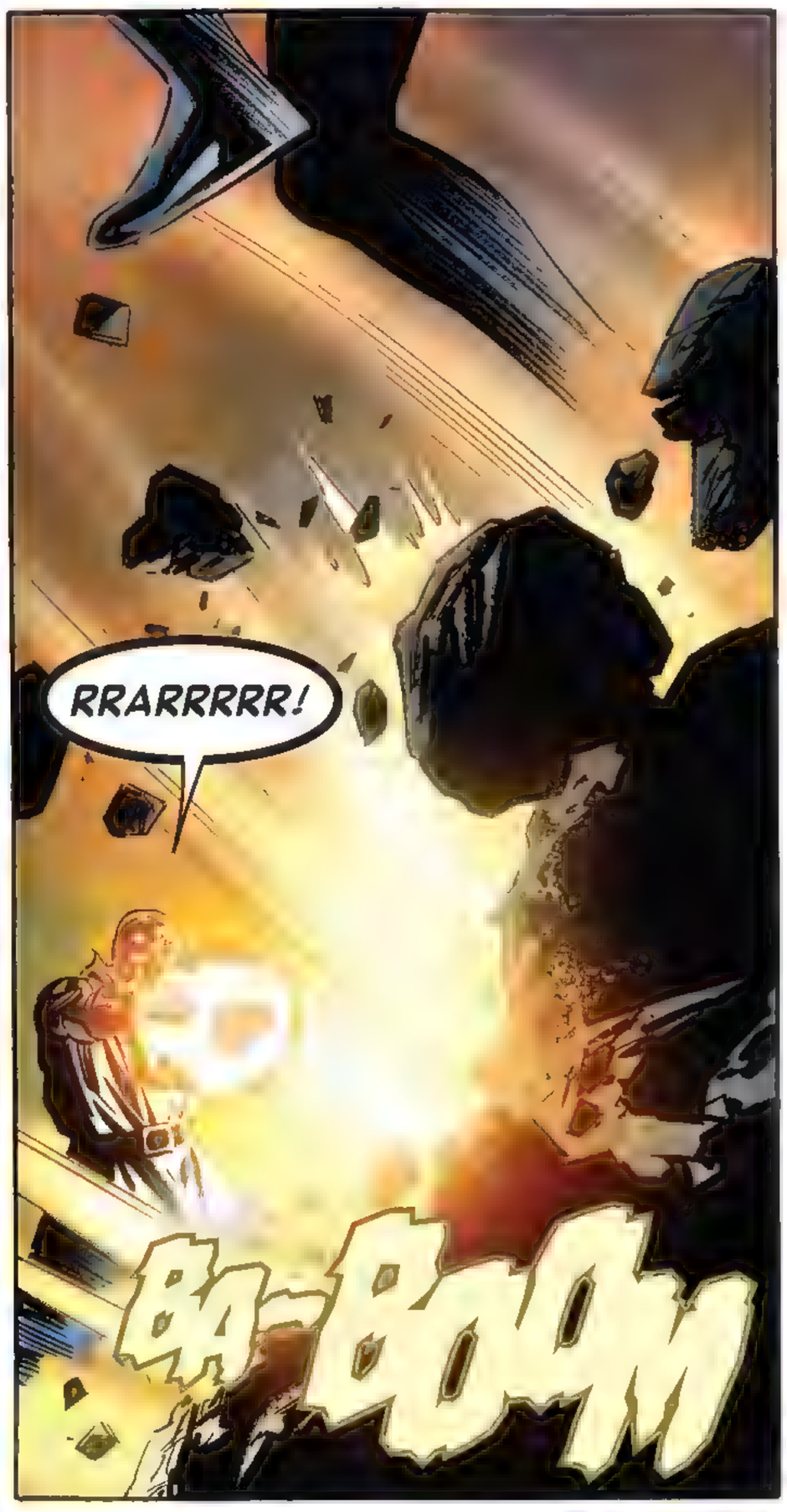
I *WILL* DECLINE.

SOMETHING MORE INTERESTING HAS CAUGHT MY EYE.

LOOMF

WERE YOU TRYING TO SNEAK UP ON ME, VICTOR?
EH?

I SAW YOU SEEING ME.
I'VE SEEN YOU COMING FOR YEARS.
YOU PATHETIC... PREDICTABLE MAN.


RRARRRRR!
BA-BOOM

I HAVE FACED YOU ON INFINITE WORLDS...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEATEN YOU?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA--

--HOW MANY TIMES I'VE MADE YOU MY SLAVE?

ARRGGHHHH!

SO... HAS YOUR REED TOLD YOU WHAT WE DO TO YOU DOOMS?

YES.

GOOD. THEN YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THIS IS GOING TO WORK.

ONE DAY YOU'LL BETRAY ME, AND I'LL HAVE TO FULLY ENGAGE THE COLLAR--DESTROYING YOUR BRAIN...UNTIL THEN, YOU'LL DO WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO, BECAUSE YOU THINK BUYING YOURSELF TIME WILL HELP YOU FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THIS.

THE LONGEVITY OF OUR STALEMATE IS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO YOUR ABILITY TO IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE BRAIN-DAMAGED...CAN YOU DO THAT, VICTOR?

YES.

GOOD. THEN COME ALONG...

I HEAR LATVERIA IS LOVELY THIS TIME OF YEAR.

LATER.

YOU LET ONE ESCAPE.

WE WILL PRY WHATEVER WE NEED FROM THE OTHER TWO...

HE WILL BE CAUGHT.

BUT IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE NOW, REED. MY HUSBAND WISHES TO SPARE YOU THE TEMPTATION THAT REMAINING WOULD BRING.

BLACK BOLT, I DON'T THINK--

THIS IS NOT A REQUEST, REED. GO HOME.

YOUR SHIPS WERE DESTROYED IN THE CONFLICT, SO YOU MAY USE THE DOOR...

YOU KNOW ELDRAC?

I DO.

THEN FAREWELL FOR NOW.

HE WILL TAKE YOU WHEREVER YOU NEED TO BE.

WHERE YOU NEED TO BE?

THE DOOR UNDERSTANDS YOUR DESIRES. IF YOU WANT TO, IT'LL TAKE YOU NOT JUST WHERE YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE, BUT TO WHERE YOU NEED TO BE.

CAN IT TAKE YOU BACK IN TIME?

AND ERASE YOUR SINS...

STOP YOURSELF FROM MAKING THE HORRIBLE MISTAKES WE'VE ALL MADE?

YES.

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

FOR THE EMPIRE

THE BAXTER BUILDING.

"THE DOOR UNDERSTANDS YOUR DESIRES.

"IF YOU WANT TO, IT'LL TAKE YOU NOT JUST WHERE YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE, BUT TO WHERE YOU NEED TO BE."

THE KREE DREADNOUGHT: *FIST OF HALA.*

...HOUSE VONN, HOUSE RA, HOUSE LAR... REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH GREAT HOUSE--AND ALL THE LESSER HOUSES THAT ANSWER TO OUR BANNERS--HAVE AGREED...

THE EMPIRE IS *OURS*, NOT THE INHUMAN USURPERS, TO GIVE.

AND, LORD *RONAN*, LOYAL *ACCUSER* AND *SON* OF *HALA*, IF YOU WISH IT...IT IS YOURS.

I DO WISH IT.

THEN YOUR ORDERS, MY LORD?

PREPARE THE FLEET.

THEY HAVE DECIDED.

AND?

THEY WILL FOLLOW WHEREVER I LEAD.

GOOD.

THE POSITION SUITS YOU...AS DOES THEIRS.

THE POSITION...IS *TEMPORARY.*

YOU KNOW WHAT I AM GOING TO DO, CRYSTAL, SO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY...

YOU MAY LEAVE IF YOU WISH. NO ONE WILL STOP YOU OR STAND IN YOUR WAY.

I'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU CHOOSE TO RETURN TO *YOUR FAMILY.*

I HAVE RUN BEFORE...

I ALWAYS RUN.

BEFORE, IT WAS ME RUNNING AWAY.

NOW, YOU ARE HERE--SO I WILL BE AS WELL.

FOR YOU I WILL BURN OUT SUNS AND BREAK WORLDS...

"TOGETHER, WE WILL SEE MAGNIFICENT THINGS."

SO...IF I'M UNDERSTANDING THIS CORRECTLY, BLACK BOLT HAS RETURNED, THERE WAS A GIANT BATTLE--MULTIVERSAL YOU'S, ALLIANCES DISSOLVED, CITIES COLLAPSING, WORLDS COLLIDING...AND YOU GOT SHOWN THE DOOR...

DEAR, YOU *DID NOT* HAVE A GOOD DAY AT WORK.

DON'T I KNOW IT.

ELDRAC, HUH? AND YOUR FATHER AND PETER DISAPPEARED WHEN YOU WENT THROUGH THE DOOR?

I SUPPOSE THEY NEEDED TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE.

AND YOU--

NEEDED TO BE HERE.

YES, WELL... I'M GLAD YOU'RE HOME. CAN YOU PLEASE HAND ME THOSE CLIPPERS?

SNIP

REED, THERE ARE DARK DAYS COMING--IF I DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW THAT, I WOULD CERTAINLY FEEL IT.

SNIP

I KNOW THAT, SUSAN. WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN DOING?

WELL, I THINK YOU'VE GONE AND GOTTEN YOURSELF LOST TRYING TO PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING, AND, JUST MAYBE, IT CAN'T BE AVOIDED.

WE'RE BEING TESTED, REED, AND WE'RE FAILING...BEING PULLED APART WHEN WE NEED EACH OTHER MOST.

SNIP

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I KNOW.

I'LL CALL BEN.

GOOD.

AND NO MORE BAD GUYS IN THE HOUSE.

OKAY.

OH... REED?

YEAH?

YOU DIDN'T SAY WHAT HAPPENED TO VICTOR.

AH, LATVERIA AND CASTLE VON DOOM.

TWO SYMBOLS OF SELF-ADORATION.

OVER THE YEARS, I'VE COME TO THINK OF ITS CITIZENS AS ENABLERS.

TELL ME, VICTOR...DOES THAT RING TRUE IN THE EMPTY METAL CAVERN OF YOUR CHEST?

LEAVE MY PEOPLE OUT OF THIS.

YOUR PEOPLE? I'M FIGHTING FOR THE SURVIVAL OF EVERY *WORLD* THAT EVER WAS...*NO ONE* IS OUT OF THIS. RIGHT NOW, WE ARE SIMPLY MEASURING *COST.*

I DO, HOWEVER, APOLOGIZE FOR THE INELEGANCE OF WHAT FOLLOWS.

THE LACK OF REFINEMENT OFFENDS ME... BUT IT MUST BE DONE.

I HAD BEEN WONDERING WHY I WAS SENT HERE...

NOW I SUPPOSE I KNOW.

OH, MY, MY... DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS, VICTOR? IT'S ONE OF THE RAREST GEMS IN ALL THE MULTIVERSE.

WHAT. A. *PRIZE.*

THIS IS NATHANIEL RICHARDS.

YES, I KNOW.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, VICTOR?

NO. I AM NOT.

AH, SO YOU'VE MET, BUT DO YOU KNOW HIS STORY...DID YOU KNOW THAT THESE *'FATHERS'* SPENT ALL OF TIME ON A SUICIDAL QUEST TO DESTROY THEMSELVES?

THAT THEY LEFT EVERYONE THAT LOVED THEM BEHIND? THAT *HE* LEFT *ME* BEHIND?

WE *REEDS* LEARNED THAT LESSON VERY WELL.

"I ACTUALLY WENT LOOKING FOR MY NATHANIEL ONCE AND FOUND HIM PICKING HIS OWN CORPSE CLEAN--TAKING FROM THE OTHER HIM HE HAD JUST KILLED.

"THE OLD FOOL HAD BECOME SUCH AN ANIMAL THAT HE STARTED CALLING HIMSELF *THE BEAST...*"

CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT HE MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE?

YES. ACTUALLY, I CAN.

TELL ME, NATHANIEL, IS THE GREAT GAME STILL ONGOING?

NO. I WON.

AND THIS WORLD'S REED... YOU ARE HIS FATHER?

YES.

I AM BEGINNING TO VERY MUCH DISLIKE THAT MAN.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

THIS IS WHERE I WAS SENT.

I WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR-- THE INHUMAN ELDRAC-- AND WALKED OUT HERE.

DESIRE OR NEED?

WHAT?

IS THIS UNIVERSE'S DOOR POWERED BY DESIRE OR NEED?

FROM MY UNDERSTANDING, IT'S NEED.

SO YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE DOOM NEEDS YOU.

VERY WELL. I SUPPOSE I WILL HAVE TO...

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

BECAUSE SOMETIMES YOU'RE AN IDIOT, REED.

I'M NOT HERE BECAUSE VICTOR NEEDS ME... I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU DO.

AVENGERS MANSION.

YEAH.

YEAH.

I KNOW.

I'M SORRY TOO. I SHOULDA...

YEAH. SURE.

I'M NOT SURE...I NEED TO...

YEAH, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

OKAY. BYE.

BE-DOOP

WHADDYA THINK?

I THINK WHEN I WENT THROUGH THAT DOOR I KEPT SAYING OVER AND OVER IN MY MIND...

I *NEED* TO GO TO TAHITI.

I *NEED* A MILLION DOLLARS.

I *NEED* A NEW GIRLFRIEND.

WHAT DO I GET? A JARVIS BURGER AND A FRUITY DRINK.

UH-HUH. SO...

⇢CHOMP!⇠

SO...WHAT I THINK IS THAT I NEEDED TO BE HERE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

AND WHAT'S THAT?

GO *HOME.*

ATTILAN, HOME CITADEL OF THE INHUMANS.

BA-BOOM

FFFSSSSHHHHHHH

SUCCESS?

YES, MY LORD.

WE REMAIN UNDETECTED.

LAST CHANCE, MY LOVE...ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

YES.

FOR THE EMPIRE.

HALA HELP US...

FOR THE *KREE.*

THE BAXTER BUILDING.

DO YOU THINK HE'LL COME?

OF COURSE HE WILL.

I GOT SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO SEE YOU.

WHAT?

YOU GUYS NEVER SEEN A MALE MODEL BEFORE?

HEY, BEN.

WHERE ARE THE KIDS?

OUT.

SUPER-SECRET CLASS PROJECT.

HUH...

AND WHERE'S DOOM?

GONE.

AND IF I HAVE MY WAY, NOT COMING BACK.

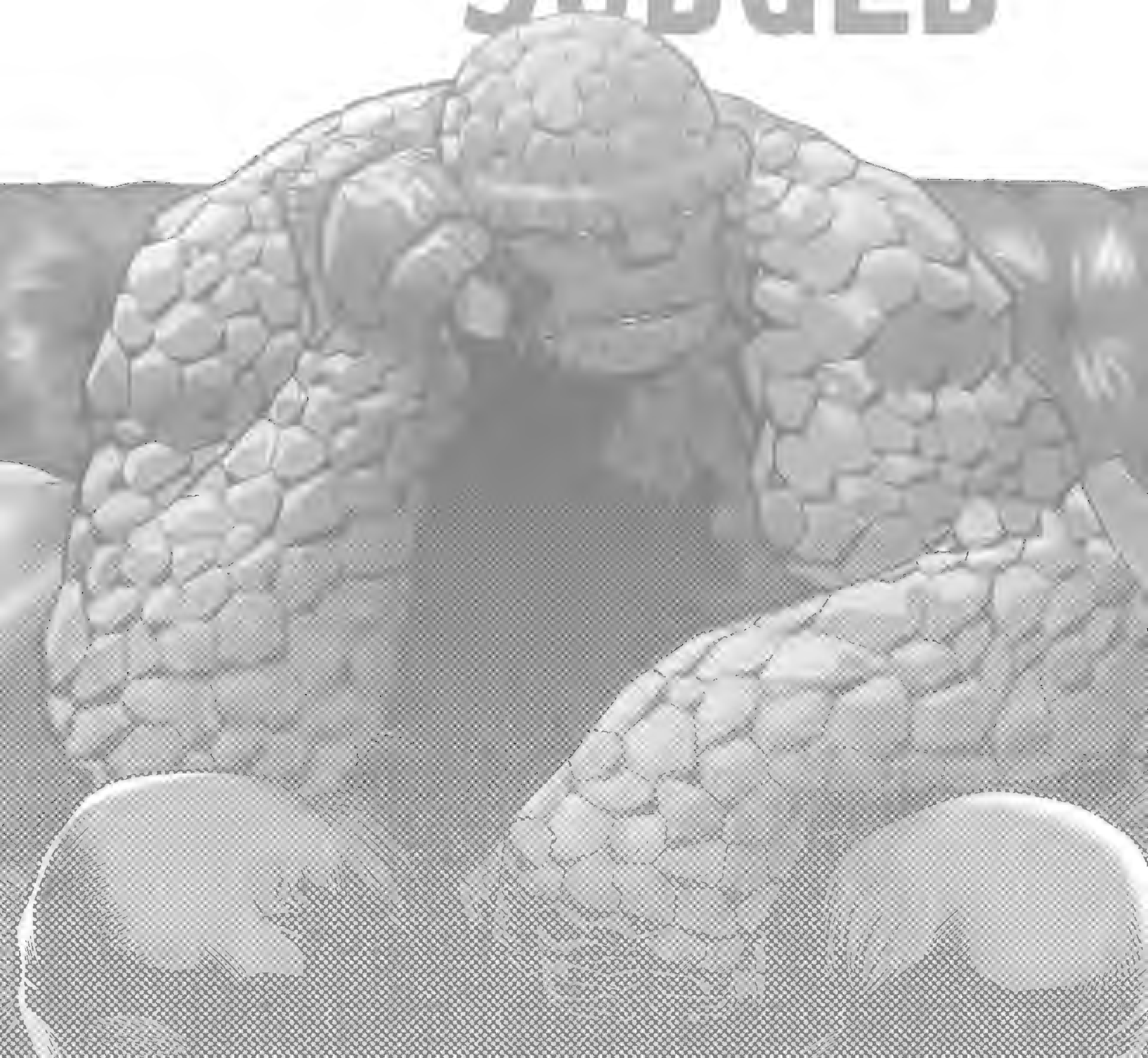
IT'S JUST US NOW.

WELL, ACTUALLY, SUZIE...

I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD USE SOME HELP...

...SO I BROUGHT ALONG A FEW FRIENDS.

YOU HAVE BEEN JUDGED



THE BAXTER BUILDING.

YOUNG FRANKLIN RICHARDS LOOKED OUT IN HORROR AT THE SCARY SCARINESS BELOW. WHAT HE SAW WAS WORSE THAN THE WORSTEST BAD DREAM HE COULD IMAGINE. BAD BREATH BAD. ***BED-WETTING BAD.***

SO HE DID THE ONLY THING A COWBOY CAN DO IN MOMENTS LIKE THESE...

CALL FOR A SUPER HERO TEAMUP.

HYPERSTORM TO KID INCREDIBLE. HYPERSTORM TO KID INCREDIBLE. DO YOU READ ME?

OVER?

OVER. OVER. OVER. NO, LEECH, I SAY *'OVER'* AND THEN YOU SAY SOMETHING ELSE BACK...OKAY? OKAY. *OVER.*

OVER.

=SIGH=

OKAY, NICKEL-PLATED CONDUIT...

DOES THE REINFORCEMENT GO ON THE SOUTH SIDE?

IF I'M READING THIS CORRECTLY-- AND I THINK I AM-- THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING TO GET THE MOST FEEDBACK.

UH-HUH.

AS MUCH POWER AS WE'RE GOING TO BE RUNNING THROUGH HERE, THE LAST THING WE NEED IS TO LOSE CONTAINMENT.

THAT'S GOOD, ALEX.

CAREFUL! DON'T DROP IT ON MIK'S HEAD. YOU'LL DENT THE PIPING.

HA! LOOK! KORR CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. HE'S DEVELOPED A SENSE OF HUMOR.

SEE, ALEX, THE JOKE IS FUNNY BECAUSE KORR DOESN'T KNOW THE ATOMIC WEIGHT OF NICKEL.

DO TOO!

IT'S 58.6934.

AHEM.

I'M GONNA NEED TO SEE SOME IDENTIFICATION.

I'M SORRY?

IDENTIFICATION. I NEED TO SEE SOME.

MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE JERK REEDS.

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE, YOUNG MAN.

SO...I ASSUME THIS IS THE *MYSTERIOUS* CLASS PROJECT?

UHHH, YEP. SURE IS, DAD.

IT...IT'S QUITE AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT, SIR. IT'S A...

A...

A...

A...

WE ACTUALLY HAVEN'T DECIDED WHAT TO CALL IT YET.

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK I CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT BY LOOKING AROUND, VAL?

FIELD GENERATORS, I SEE THE HEAVY-DUTY CONDUIT, NAVIGATION BUOYS TO PREVENT SHEAR, AND YOU'VE CLEARLY PATCHED INTO THE INTEGRATED H.E.R.B.I.E. SUB-ARCHITECTURE...

YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE EXPANDING THE TRANSLOCATOR TO COVER THE ENTIRE FLOOR?

THREE FLOORS.

THREE? THAT'S...

THAT'S... NOT THE POINT, VAL.

A LOT OF PEOPLE LIVE HERE NOW, DAD. I WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE CAN GET AWAY IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG.

AND THAT'S THE ONLY REASON?

...MAYBE.

UH-HUH. WE'LL FINISH THIS LATER.

MAKE SURE YOU STABI--

SOUTH SIDE. GOT IT.

WHAT DID YOU AND MOM DECIDE TO DO?

WELL, I DECIDED TO DO WHAT YOUR MOTHER SAID WE SHOULD HAVE DONE ALL ALONG... ***CALL OUR FRIENDS.***

COOL. WHICH ONES?

ALL OF THEM.

ATTILAN.

SEE? *SEE?* THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT...

WHO COULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING? NOT YOU. NOT I. HOW DO YOU ANTICIPATE THE UNEXPECTED? ISN'T THAT EXACTLY WHY IT *IS* UNEXPECTED?

PERCEPTION! PERCEPTION IS THE REAL *X-FACTOR.* EVERYTHING IS FILTERED THROUGH OUR EXPECTATIONS-- HOW OTHER AGENDAS ALIGN WITH OUR OWN.

TWO PARABOLAS APPROACH ONE ANOTHER, ALMOST TOUCHING...THEIR PATHS PARALLEL FOR A BRIEF MOMENT BEFORE ROCKETING OFF SOMEWHERE ELSE. APART...*FOREVER.*

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, DIABLO? THEIR PATHS NEVER COMBINED...

THINKER, WOULD YOU PLEASE *SHUT UP?*

NO! LISTEN... *LISTEN!* THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN SEPARATE FUTURES.

"THE KREE AND THE INHUMANS WERE NEVER MEANT TO STAY UNITED."

SILENT SIEGE

HURT...BUT JUST UNCONSCIOUS. THANK GOODNESS.

THAT WAS ALMOST *TOO MUCH*, MY LOVE.

FORGIVE ME, CRYSTAL, BUT THE BOY WOULD NOT GO DOWN...

AND TOO MUCH RESTS ON OUR PURPOSE SURVIVING DISCOVERY A BIT LONGER.

LORD RONAN, WE HAVE FOUND THE LOCATION OF THE TARGET...WE ARE *VERY* CLOSE.

LEAD THE WAY, MAJOR. QUICKLY.

HUSBAND, I THINK NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO REVEAL THE FULL EXTENT OF YOUR PLAN...

EXACTLY HOW DO YOU PLAN TO RESTORE THE EMPIRE?

WHILE I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN WHAT WAS NECESSARY, UNTIL YOU RECENTLY SPOKE TO YOUR SISTER, MEDUSA... I DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY *HOW*.

I WAS PREPARED TO DO...HORRIBLE, *DISHONORABLE* THINGS... BUT RECENT EVENTS HAVE PROVIDED US WITH A MORE ELEGANT SOLUTION.

IN ALL THE UNIVERSE, THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN WHO POSSESSES THE INNATE TALENT THE *KREE EMPIRE* NEEDS.

OPEN THIS.

OH!

AND NOW, THANKS TO YOUR FAMILY...

I HAVE *TWO* OF THEM.

THE OTHER SIDE OF ZERO.
THE CULT OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

I UNDERSTAND... IT'S UNNATURAL. THIS IS NOT HOW IT NORMALLY IS.

THIS IS NOT HOW *IT SHOULD BE.*

EVEN SO, YOU MUST... *ENDURE.*

WE CANNOT HELP THE WORLD WE ARE BORN INTO...

WE CAN ONLY WORK TO MAKE IT INTO WHAT WE WANT IT TO BE.

TO THAT END, I PROMISE YOU WE WILL KILL EVERY LIVING THING ON THIS PLANET.

HISSSSSSSSSSSSS

OUR MASTER CALLS FOR YOU.

EXCELLENT.

LOOK, ADVISOR...THEY ARE BORN HUNGRY.

I WANT YOU TO FIND HOSTS FOR THEM AMONG THE BELIEVERS.

YES, ANTI-PRIEST.

PROGRESSSSSSS?

WE ARE ALMOST READY, MASTER.

AT THE EXPENSE OF THIS HIVE'S QUEEN, WE HAVE HATCHED ONE THOUSAND NEW DRONES, THE LAST OF WHICH ARE NOW BEING PLACED IN HOSTS.

"THEY HAVE BEEN HIDDEN WITHIN CULT BUSINESS FRONTS AND UPON ACTIVATION WILL SYNC UP TO CREATE THE BOUNDARY OF THE BRIDGE."

"WE HAVE ALSO COMPLETED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AMPLIFYING DEVICES--OBELISKS--THAT WILL ENABLE US TO EXPAND THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

WE HAVE NOT FINALIZED THE EXTENT OF THE PERIMETER, BUT YOUR RIGHTEOUS ANNIHILATION WAVE WILL BE ABLE TO ARRIVE IN FORCE.

ANNNND THE CATALYSSSSST?

WE FAILED YOU ONCE.

WE WILL NOT AGAIN...

BAXTER BUILDING

THIS PLANET'S PORTAL TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE WILL BE OURS.

THE BAXTER BUILDING.

...AND, AS YOU CAN SEE, BETWEEN THE VARIANT INHUMANS AND THE OTHER *'MEs'* FROM PARALLEL WORLDS, WE'LL BE FACING A UNIQUE SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

BUT BEFORE I GET INTO VARIOUS TACTICAL SCENARIOS AND VARIABLE POINTS OF VICTORY, THERE IS ONE OTHER THING I WANTED TO SAY...

I AM SORRY.

I HAVE MADE DECISIONS THAT--REGARDLESS OF HOW PURE MY MOTIVATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN--HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT ALL OF YOU. SIGNIFICANTLY.

TOO OFTEN I THINK THAT I CAN DO THESE THINGS ALONE. I SHOULD KNOW BETTER BY NOW.

IT'S AN INSULT THAT I DID NOT CALL YOU FIRST.

KNOWING THAT, I WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD MANY OF YOU NOT ANSWERING MY CALL. THAT YOU DID ONLY UNDERSCORES WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN...

YOU ARE THE VERY BEST THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER.

SO...MOVING ON...HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS? I THINK IT BEST TO START WITH--

HEY, SUSAN, I FORGOT TO MENTION IT EARLIER, BUT I WANTED TO SAY CONGRATS.

OH YEAH, JEN...WHAT FOR?

I HEAR THAT BEN GRIMM GOT HIS HEAD OUT OF HIS ROCKY BUTT AND DECIDED TO COME BACK TO THE BAXTER BUILDING.

WELL, TO BE FAIR...IT KIND OF WAS OUR FAULT BECAUSE WE RAN HIM OFF...

BUT IT JUST WASN'T THE SAME WITHOUT HIM.

STILL, HE COULD CLEAN UP MORE...DO SOME DISHES.

I DID THE DISHES LAST NIGHT!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HOME, BEN.

HEY! DO YOU THINK YOU COULD KEEP IT DOWN?

I CAN'T HEAR THE PART ABOUT HOW WE'RE ALL GOING TO GET KILLED.

...THE BEST WAY TO REACH OUR GOAL OF A SWIFT RESOLUTION WITH THE INHUMANS AND A DECISIVE CONCLUSION TO ALL THIS COUNCIL BUSINESS.

I HOPE YOU ALL AGREE.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, REED. I'VE HEARD ENOUGH...

ON YOUR FEET, PEOPLE...

WE LEAVE IN AN HOUR FOR ATTILAN.

THE FOREVER CITY.
PROTECTORATE OF ATTILAN.

THE ENGINE?
REIGNITED, MY LORD.
THEN WE BEGIN.
PLACE THE ACCUSED BEFORE ME.

I AM RONAN, HUMANS OF THE MULTIVERSE.
WELL, KNOW THAT I DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY OF A DYING PEOPLE, ARBITER...
AND WE *REEDS*...HAVE NO JURISDICTION.
HUMPH.
LOOK AROUND. IT APPEARS THAT IS...UNTRUE.

YOU ARE CHARGED WITH CRIMES OF ARROGANCE TOO LONG TO LIST.
THE EVIDENCE IS LEGION, AND YOUR OWN WORDS HAVE CONDEMNED YOU.
EVERY MAN HAS AN END...

YOURS...WILL *MATTER.*

NO!
NOOOOOO!

AARRRGGGGHHHHHH!!

YOU HAVE BEEN JUDGED.

I... LIVE?

YES, SUPREMOR.

YOU LIVE.

HOW LONG...

HOW LONG HAVE I SLEPT...? HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN DORMANT?

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS.

THE SUPREMOR SEED HELD, INTELLIGENCE...

MY CONSCIOUSNESS IS EXPANDED...

THERE ARE PARALLEL REALITIES NOW CONTAINED WITHIN MY COLLECTIVE.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGENERATION WERE DEMANDING. I HAD TO USE SOME...*EXOTIC MATERIAL* AS A CONTAINER.

I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD FIND IT BENEFICIAL.

IT WAS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT. YOU HAVE DONE WELL, ACCUSER.

THANK YOU, SUPREMOR.

HOW ELSE MAY I SERVE YOU AND THE EMPIRE?

TELL ME, SON OF KREE...

WHERE ARE MY ARMIES?

THE BAXTER BUILDING.

TUNNELING WITHIN, THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE HAD SEEN A VISION OF HIS DEATH.

AN END OF HIS OWN MAKING.

TO ESCAPE THIS, HE HAD HIS ACCUSERS BURN OVER ONE HUNDRED WORLDS...JUST TO BE SURE.

MY GOD...

AND NOW, HE WILL DO THE SAME TO OURS.

FANTASTIC FOUR

VOL FIVE FOREVER

FOREVER

PART ONE

LATVERIA.
DOCTOR DOOM, NATHANIEL RICHARDS, AND THE ALTERNATE REED RICHARDS COUNTERPART.

THE BAXTER BUILDING.
HOME OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION.

THE OTHER SIDE OF ZERO.
THE ANTI-PRIEST OF ANNIHILUS.

ATTILAN.
FLOATING CITADEL
OF THE INHUMANS.

THE FOREVER CITY.
THE REBORN
SUPREME INTELLIGENCE
OF THE KREE.

NEW YORK.
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST
HEROES ASSEMBLED.

"THIS IS NOT THE FUTURE WE WERE PROMISED...

"THIS IS THE END OF THE WORLD."

KREE WARSHIPS. CONFIGURATION SUGGESTS THE CENTRAL SHIPYARDS--OLD-SCHOOL.

REED, DID--

NO. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS IS COMING FROM.

WELL, I KNOW THIS: THEY PICKED THE WRONG WORLD AT THE WRONG TIME. REED, IT LOOKS LIKE OUR OTHER BUSINESS WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

UNDERSTOOD. BUT CAP...EXTRAPOLATING OUT, WE'RE LOOKING AT AN UNBROKEN WING--THERE'S A *GOOD POSSIBILITY* A FULL KREE ARMADA *IS* IN ORBIT.

IF WE DON'T--

GENTLEMEN... THIS REALLY ISN'T SOMETHING WE NEED TO *TALK TO DEATH.*

WE HAVE TO FORCE THEM BEYOND THE CITY--WE'LL START FROM HERE AND PUSH OUTWARD.

I KNOW IT'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN JUST WRECKING EVERYTHING...

SO, REMEMBER, THE REASON WE'RE DOING IT *THIS* WAY IS TO *PROTECT* CIVILIAN *LIVES.*

ANY COMPLAINTS IF I DO IT FOR LOVE?

REALLY, NAMOR?

WELL, IF IT'S POSSIBLE WE MIGHT DIE...

"...LET IT BE WITHOUT REGRET.

"LET IT BE WITH *VIGOR.*

"LET IT BE AS *GIANTS.*"

DR. STRANGE! IGNORE THE SMALLER, FAST-MOVING FIGHTERS... THE DREADNOUGHTS CONTAIN THEIR GROUND TROOPS.

AH, YES... GRAVITY.

"WE'RE ALL HER SUBJECTS, AREN'T WE?"

IT'S GOING DOWN.

NICE, DOC...SCRATCH ONE.

TRAJECTORY'S WRONG.

IT'S NOT GOING TO HIT THE WATER.

OH, NO...

0912

THE OTHER SIDE OF ZERO.

THE CITY IS UNDER ATTACK, ANTI-PRIEST-- *FIRE FROM THE SKY.*

THIS IS NOT THE DEATH WE *HAD PLANNED.*

NO. WE REQUIRE GUIDANCE... WE MUST SUMMON OUR MASTER...

WE MUST SUMMON...

ANNIHILUS.

SSSSSSPEAK!

A KREE ARMADA IS BOMBARDING THE SURFACE, ANNIHILUS.

WE STAND TO LOSE EVERYTHING WE HAVE BUILT--THE *BEACONS*, AS WELL AS ACCESS TO *THE GATE* AND THIS WORLD ITSELF.

YOUR ORDERS, MASTER?

OPENNNN IT! NOW!

ACCESSSSSSS THE GATE!

OPEN!

OPEN!

OPEN!

READY YOUR GLORIOUS ANNIHILATION WAVE, MASTER...

WE WILL PREPARE THE WAY.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.
CASTLE DOOM.

YOU ASK TOO MUCH.

YOU HAVE TOLD ME YOUR... *FRIEND* HAS HUNTED DOOM ACROSS ALL REALITY AND STANDS BEFORE ME WITH MY FATHER IN CHAINS.

AT THE VERY LEAST, I SHOULD *BURN THIS MAN WHERE HE STANDS.*

NATHANIEL RICHARDS, DO YOU SINCERELY EXPECT ME TO WELCOME HIM TO LATVERIA?

KRISTOFF... WHAT I EXPECT IS FOR YOU TO THROW THE DOORS OPEN...

VICTOR'S LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

ATTILAN.

A KREE ARMADA HOLDS ORBIT ABOVE THE CITY.

TRAITORS!

HUSBAND, WE'RE VASTLY OUTNUMBERED-- WE MUST FLEE!

BLACK BOLT!

WE HAVE TO RUN!

"WE STAY."

"THERE YOU ARE.

"THE ANOMALY IS HERE. NOW.

"RIGHT ABOVE US."

SUPREMOR! WHY DID YOU ORDER THE ARMADA TO ATTACK?

WE WERE TO RETURN TO THE EMPIRE--RECLAIM ALL THAT WAS OURS.

DEFEATING THIS WORLD MEANS NOTHING TO US!

AH, I SEE WITHIN YOU...

ACCUSER, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

I AM RONAN, KREE ELITE BORN ON HALA.

I ONLY KNEW THAT IT WOULD BRING YOU BACK--AND IT SHOULD BE USED AT THE HOUR OF THE EMPIRE'S GREATEST NEED.

RONAN, SON OF HALA, YOU WERE UNAWARE OF THE PURGE WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THE CREATION OF THE SUPREMOR SEED...

YOU WERE IGNORANT OF THE SEED'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE, WEREN'T YOU?

KNOW MORE, ACCUSER.

OH!

"THE SUPREMOR SEED--MY TOOL OF RESURRECTION--WAS CREATED BECAUSE OF A POTENTIAL ANOMALY THAT WOULD ONE DAY EXIST WITHIN THE HEART OF A FAILED KREE WEAPONS EXPERIMENT.

"THE INHUMANS.

"LONG AGO, THE ACCUSERS DESTROYED OVER ONE HUNDRED WORLDS WHERE THE EXPERIMENTS TOOK PLACE, BUT INEVITABLY FAILED...AS THEY DID NOT KILL THEM ALL.

"FIVE REMAINED HIDDEN."

DID YOU...

NO. I DID NOT KNOW THIS... I...

AND NOW ALL FIVE ARE HERE, AND THE ANOMALY HAS MANIFESTED.

CALL DOWN A SHIP, ACCUSER.

WE WILL WATCH FROM SPACE...

IT IS NOT DEFEAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN, BUT EXTINCTION.

NO!

WE'VE PUSHED THEM BEYOND THE PERIMETER--*DO IT NOW!*

TICK-TOCK, REED.

ALMOST THERE...

DONE.

OKAY, SUSAN, FOCUS YOUR FORCE-FIELD WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.

UGH!

IT WORKED...WE'RE CLEAR.

NOW WE CAN PUSH THEM ALL THE WAY BACK.

TH-THE SHIP...CRASHED INSIDE THE CITY.

YEAH, BAD NEWS ON THAT FRONT. WE'RE GETTING WORD OF FORCES ON THE GROUND.

I'M ALERTING EVERYONE...

...SENTRIES HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN SOHO.

OH, NO...

ALICIA!

THE BAXTER BUILDING.

ALL DONE...AND YOU WERE RIGHT. I THOUGHT FOR SURE WHEN BENTLEY RECONNECTED THE POWER, THE SYSTEM WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT.

I'M TELLING YOU-- IT COULD MANAGE EVEN MORE THAN THAT, ALEX...

BUT I'M NOT SURE DAD WOULD LIKE IT IF WE TRANSLOCATED THE TOP THREE FLOORS OF THE BAXTER BUILDING TO THE MOON.

HE WOULDN'T LIKE IT AT ALL, VAL.

NOT A BIT.

PSSH. WHATEVER, FRANKLIN. WE SHOULD DO IT ANYWAY...

WHY BE BORIN--

YIKES!

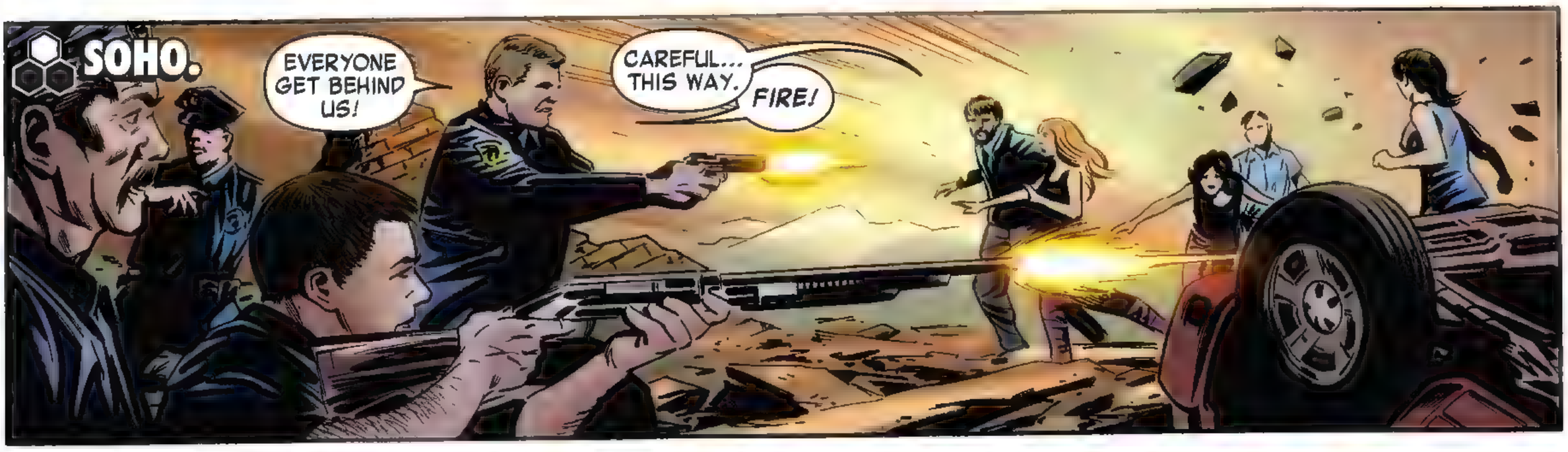
BUGS!

EVERYONE GET UPSTAIRS!

ALEX! CAN YOU HOLD THEM OFF?

HURRY! THERE'S A LOT OF THEM.

WE'RE GOING TO GET TO TEST THIS THING A LOT SOONER THAN EVERYONE EXPECTED.



PING
PING
PING
WHAT ARE YOU...
DO YOU HEAR THAT? SOMETHING FALLING...
KA-KA-KA-

WHAMMM

PRIORITIZING THREAT MATRIX...

TARGETS ACQUIRED.

EXECUTE PRIMARY.

ZZZAKK

ACQUIRING SECONDARY TARGET.

PAL, DON'T I KNOW IT.

ALICIA...

BEN.

RUNNN!

I CAN'T HOLD THEM...

SEND FRANKLIN...

AND SOMEONE KNOCK OUT LEECH!

PRACTICE!

NO ONE KNOWS YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR POWERS NOW, LEECH...

REMEMBER? WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING IN SECRET.

HERE COMES THE CAVALRY, ALEX!

TOO LATE, FRANKLIN!

THE TRANSLOCATOR IS AT FULL POWER-- WE'RE GOING NOW.

BENTLEY, AS SOON AS ALEX REACHES THE FLOOR-- JUMP US!

WOCKA WOCKA.

FWOOMP
WHAT WAS...
THE BAXTER BUILDING!
VAL MUST HAVE ACTIVATED THE PANIC FLOOR TO GET THE CLASS OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
I'M SURE SHE WAS JUST BEING HER NORMAL PROACTIVE SELF...I'M SURE NO ONE GOT LEFT BEHIND...
GO. I CAN MANAGE THINGS HE--
CAN YOU? I'M HAVING TO RECALCULATE THE NECESSARY RATIOS EVERY TIME THERE'S A FLUCTUATION IN EITHER THE--
YEAH. SO MAYBE IT'D BE BEST IF I GO AND MAKE SURE NO LITTLE FISH KIDS GOT FORGOTTEN.
THANK YOU, PETER.

WE LOSSST MANY IN THE FLASSSH.

NO MATTER.

THE DOOR TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE REMMAINSSSSSSS.

AFFIX THE DISSSC TO THE DOOR.

CH-CHUNK

ANTI-PRIESSSST...

GATEWAY ISSSSS SSSSTUCK. SSSSSUMMMON HIM.

YES.

YESSSSSSSSSS!

IT ISSSS TIME. THE DEVICCCE IS READY.

WE AWAIT YOUR SSSSIGNAL, ANNIHILUSSS.

SSS--

WHAM

THWIP

PAY ATTENTION, UGLIES!

I'M LOOKING FOR ANY KIDS YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN RUNNING AROUND. FISH. MOLOIDS. GARDEN VARIETY GREEN, PINK, AND *REALLY* PINK CHILDREN.

AND GOD HELP YOU IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO ANY OF THEM.

BORNK!

THE SSSSSIGNAL!

OKAY...

THAT CAN'T BE GOOD.

HRRNNN!

SSSSSTOP HIM!

OOFF!

BORNK!

WHAM

NOW TO...

YOU ASSSSK ABOUT CHILDREN?

YESSSSSS?

THEY DIED.

SSSSSCREAMING.

YEAH?

BORNK!

I THINK YOU'RE *LYING*...

BUT JUST IN CASE...I WANT TO--

BORNK!

HRRRMMMMMMMMMMMM

HRRRMMMMMMMMMMMMMM

OH, NO!

RSSH

PETE...

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU WEARING?

JOHNNY?

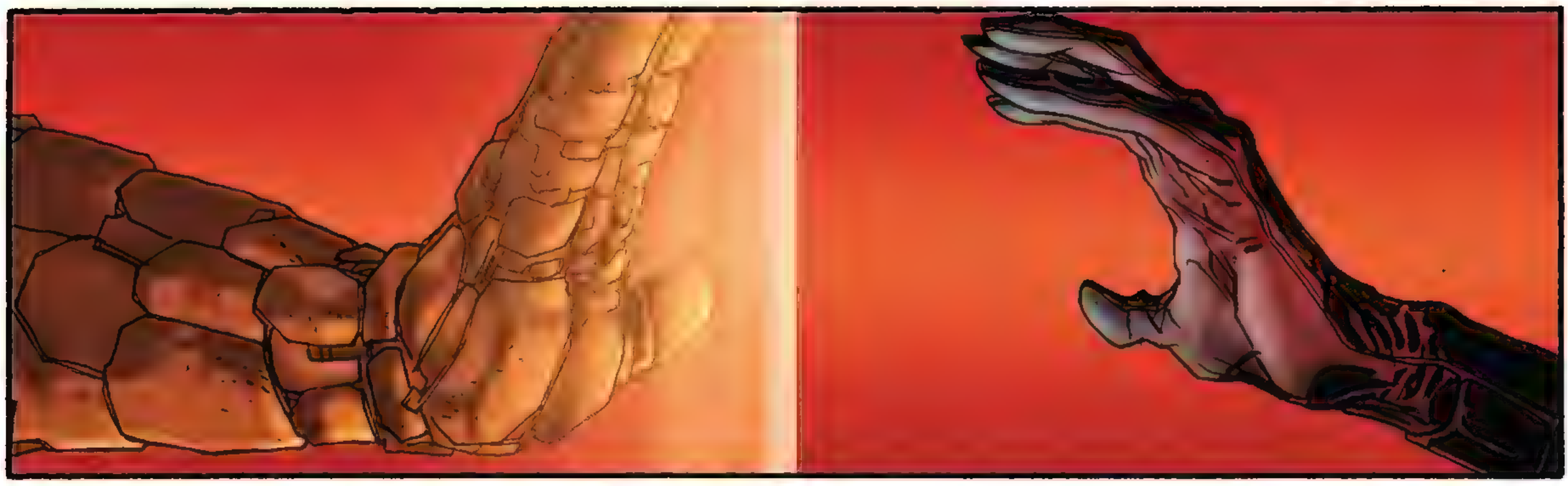
MONTHS AGO.
THE BAXTER BUILDING.

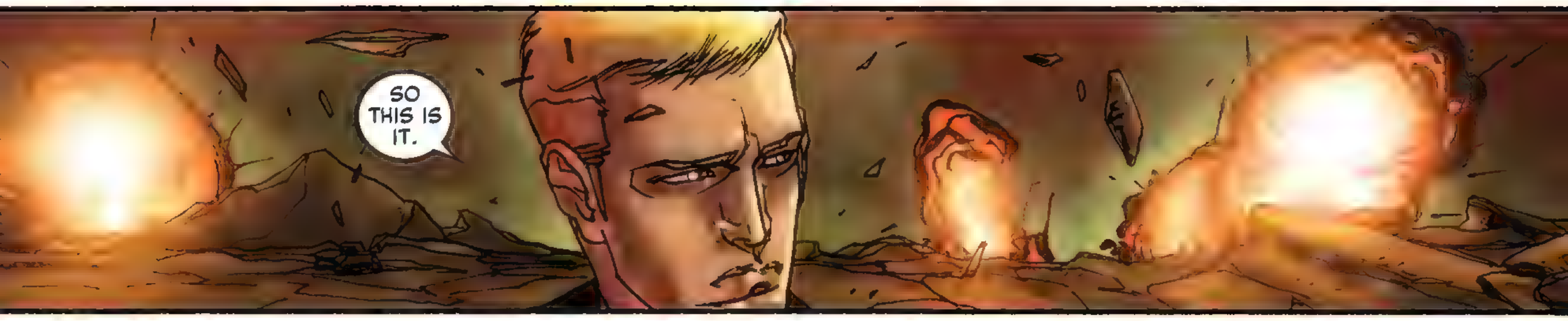
NO! NO! NO!

THE LAST MOMENTS OF JOHNNY STORM.

UNBELIEVABLE.

YOU DON'T WISH IT ANY MORE THAN I DO.




SO THIS IS IT.

A BILLION TO ONE...
YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF THAT?

YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF THAT!?!

FLAME ON!

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JOHNNY STORM?

WOOSHH

COME ON... THAT'S IT...

GET CLOSER.

NOVA!

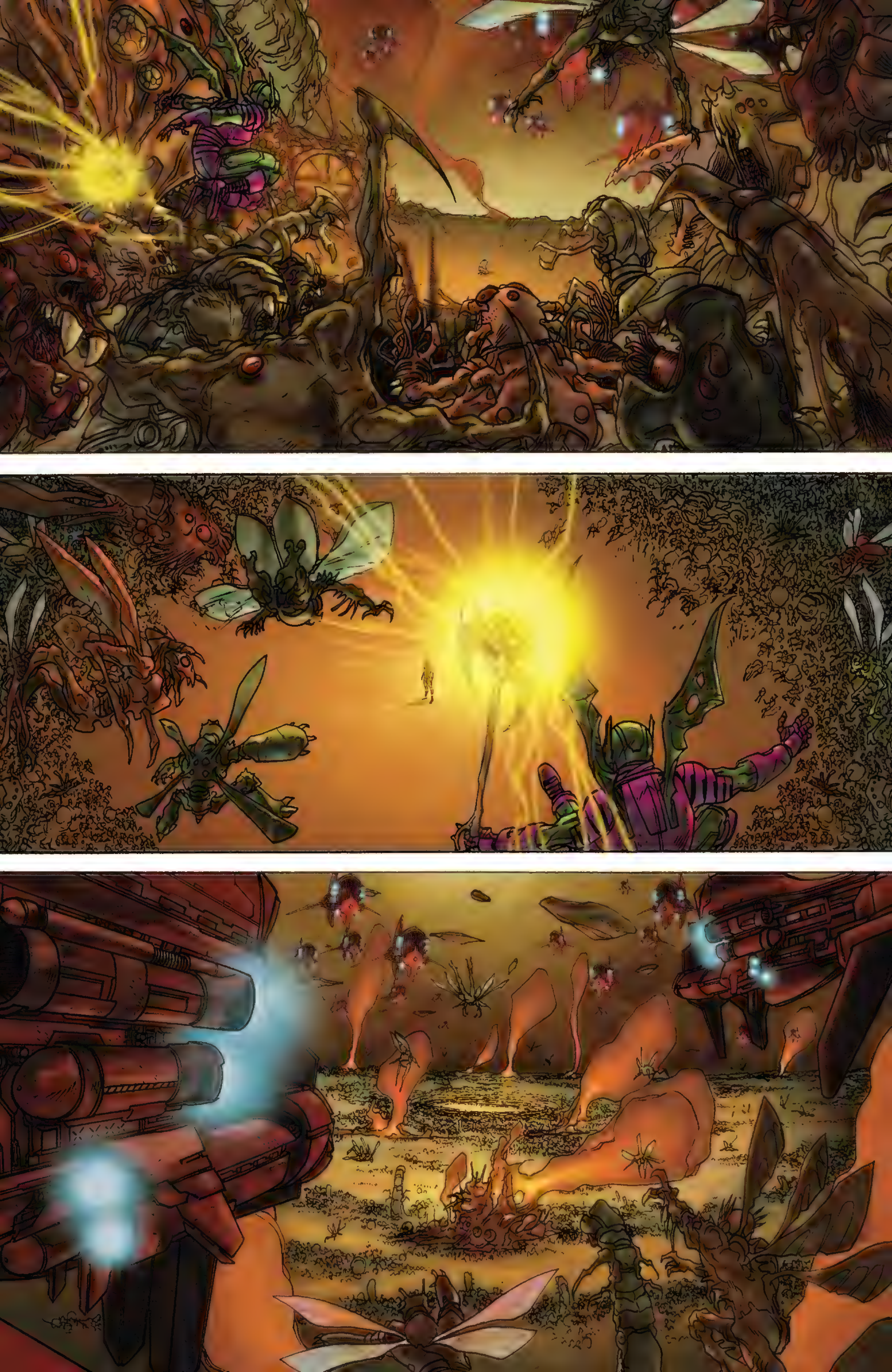
HHHSSSSSS

NEVER... BURNED THAT HOT BEFORE...

I DID IT.

I STOPPED THEM. I...

NO.



FINE.

NEVER GONE NOVA TWICE BEFORE...

WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

HHRRNNNNN.

AARGGH!

HRRNNNN.

GIIIIVE USSSSS.

GIIIVE USSSSSS.

OPENNNNNN GATE.

GO TO HELL.

RRRAHRRR!

FOUR DAYS LATER.

PROGRESSSS?

TRICKY. TUMBLY.

MAN WHO MADE ISSSSS VERY, VERY SSSSMART. NO CRACKING NO TIME SSSSOON.

WE HAVE AN ID--

EH?

THE GATE...IT OPENSSSSSSS.

ANNIHILUS.

YOU HAVE MY BROTHER'S BODY.

I WANT IT BACK.

YOU RECOGNIZE THIS? AN ULTIMATE NULLIFIER--CAPABLE OF DESTROYING ANYTHING? ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE HIS BODY TO ME, OR DO I HAVE TO USE THIS?

BECAUSE I WILL DO IT-- I'LL DROP THIS SHIELD AND OBLITERATE EVERYTHING ON YOUR SIDE.

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT, ANNIHILUS?

DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

YESSSSSSSSSS.

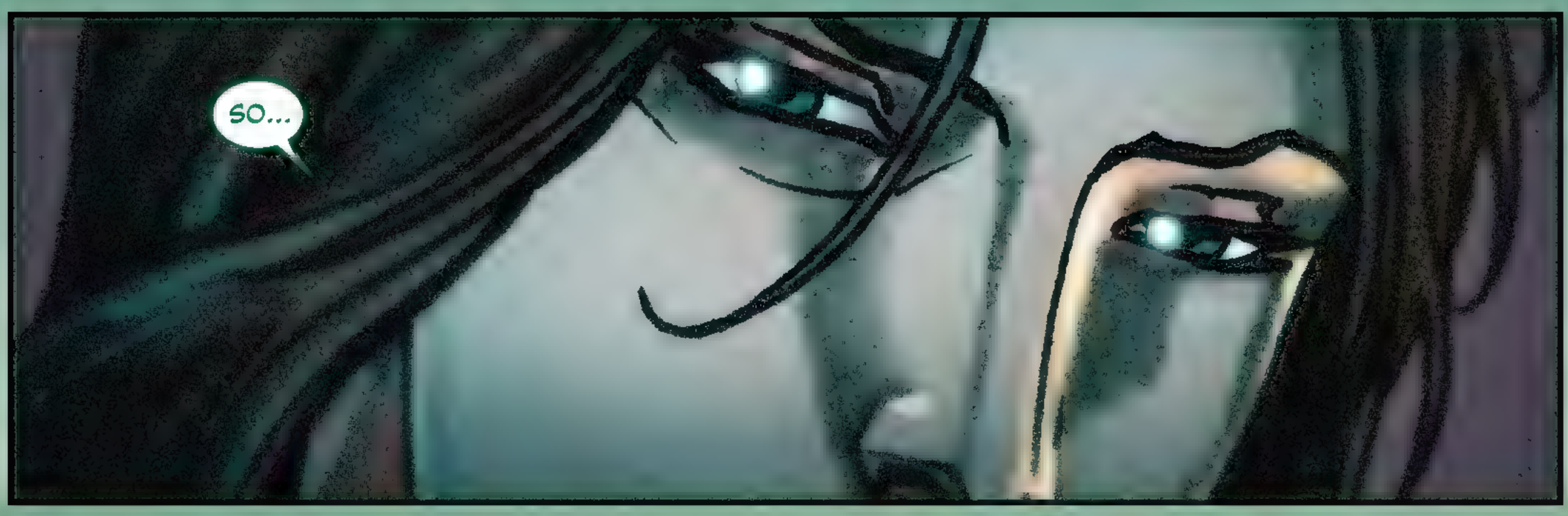
ENDLESSSS RESSSURRECTION... CAN'T SSSSTOP LIVING.

HE'SSSSS THE LUCKY ONE.

LET'SSSSSSS JOIN HIM.

OPENNN THE GATE, RICHARDSSSSSSSS.

BRINGSSSS HIM BACK.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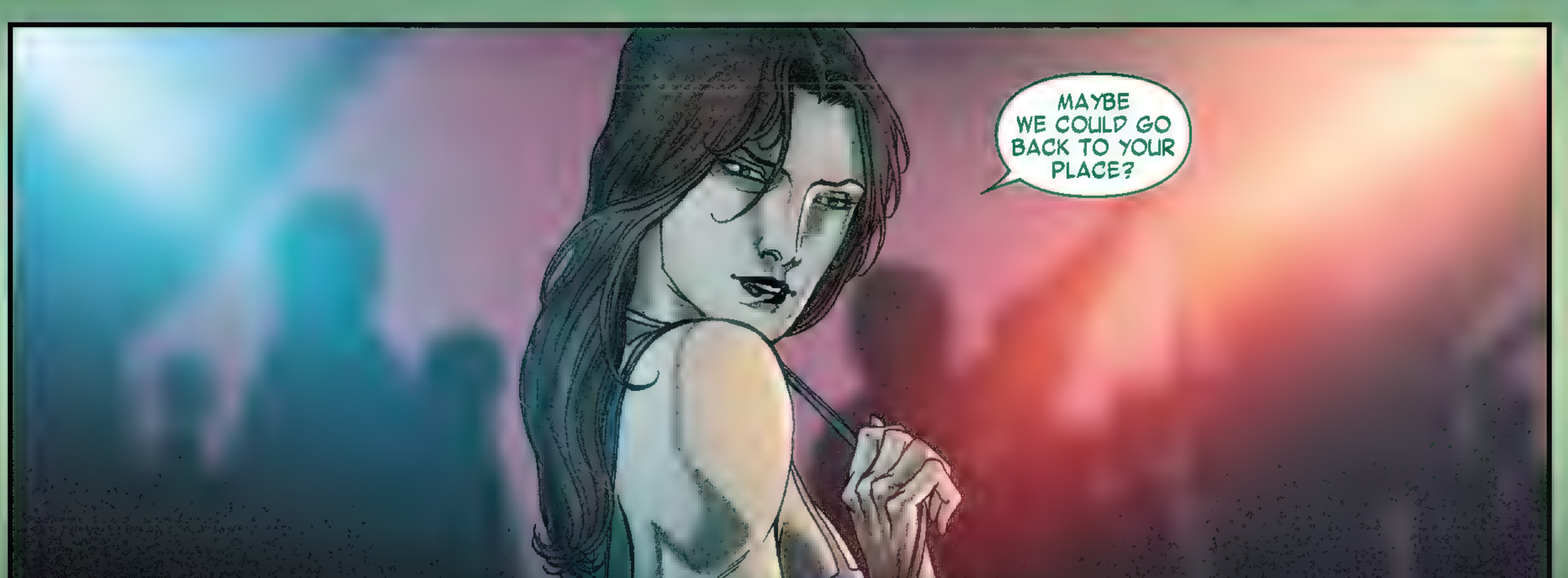

MAYBE WE COULD GO BACK TO YOUR PLACE?

EQUILIBRIUM AND THERMODYNAMICS HAVE LEFT YOU NO OTHER CHOICE...

DO YOU WANT TO BE A SLAVE TO FATE...

...A SERVANT TO YOUR EVENTUAL DEMISE?

OR DO YOU WANT *NEW RULES* FOR A *NEW LIFE?*

SEE, THERE'S A NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS.

FROM A DENSE, HOT STATE, OUR REALITY EXPLODED INTO EXISTENCE. BUT AS SOON AS IT WAS BORN, OUR UNIVERSE BEGAN DYING.

AND THE SLOW, AGONIZING EXTINCTION SPIRAL CALLED ***EXPANSION*** WILL END IN THE HEAT DEATH OF ***EVERYTHING.***

HERE, YOU DIE...

IN THE ***NEGATIVE ZONE***, YOU CAN ***LIVE.***

AH!

AAAGGGGGGHHHHH!

MURBGG!

555555555555HHHHHHHH

TOO MUCH SSSSSSSSCREAMING... CAN'T WORK NO LISSSE MY MINDSSSSSS.

HUMANSSSSS SSSAD PEOPLE...

YOU DONE GOT SSSSSTICKY...

YOUSSSS DIED THREE TIMESSSSSSSSS SSSSSO FAR. SSSSTOP BURNING THE WORMSSSS. SSSTOP BURNING.

SSSSTOP BURNING!

NEEDSSSS MORE WORMSSSSSSSSS.

ARRGGH!

AM...

AM... I GOING TO DIE?

HUMANSSSSS SSSSTRONG HERE AT THE DYING...

THE WORMSSSSS RECONNECT.

THEY BRINGSSS YOU BACK.

LATER.

SO GROSS.

DON'T MESS WITH IT.

LET THEM DO THEIR WORK.

IT ITCHES.

LIFE ITCHES.

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, YOU KEPT IGNITING AND BURNING THEM UP BEFORE THEY COULD SET IN AND COMPLETELY FIX THE DAMAGE.

DEATH, REBIRTH, INFERNO, DEATH...

YOU'RE SOME CIRCLE OF LIFE, MY FRIEND.

LIKE, *DEAD* DEAD?

WELCOME TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE, BURNING MAN...

HERE, EVERYTHING STARTS WITH DEATH. IT'S A GENESIS--WHAT EVERYTHING IS BORN OUT OF...

THINK OF IT LIKE BIOLOGICAL REINCARNATION.

WHO *ARE* YOU PEOPLE?

UNIVERSAL INHUMANS...

WE, SPECIFICALLY, ARE THE *LIGHT BRIGADE.*

MY NAME IS ELS UDONTA, THE STONE-THROWER.

THAT'S DARA KO EKE, THE ALL-KNOWING...

AND VOORR, THE SUN.

OUR ANGRY BROTHER SITTING IN THE CORNER IS PRAX ORD, A METALLIC TITAN.

AND THE ONE IN THE DRESS IS THE HOOUD. CREEPING DEATH; THE GREAT BEAST OF THE APOCALYPSE.

HELLO, FRIEND.

"WE WERE MEANT TO BE ***THE OFFERING.***

"WHEN WE WENT THROUGH ***ELDRAC,*** THE DOOR, WE NOT ONLY FOUND OURSELVES IN A BATTLE WE COULD NOT WIN, BUT ALSO ONE WE COULD NOT LOSE.

"AS, LIKE YOU, THEY BRING US BACK WHEN WE DIE.

"I THINK ELDRAC DID NOT WANT US TO DIE."

SO YOU FIVE CAME HERE TO DIE?

NOT FIVE, HUMAN. FIVE AND ONE. SIX...

SIX WARRIORS FOR SACRIFICE.

"OUR BROTHER, KAL BLACKBANE, IS IN THE ARENA.

"THE MIDNIGHT BLADE CURRENTLY FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE.

"HE FIGHTS FOR THE PLEASURE OF ANNIHILUS."

WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP.

FIGHT TO THE DEATH AND BE REBORN ONLY TO DO IT AGAIN?

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU...ME... *WE* DO NOW?

WE JUST... DIE?

YOU WEREN'T LISTENING, BOY.

WE ARE THE *LIGHT BRIGADE.*

"WE DON'T DIE..."

WE DIE *MAGNIFICENTLY.*

ONE MONTH LATER.

ISSSS TIME, BURNING BOY...MAYBE TODAY ISSSS THE DAY.

OH, SHUT UP.

BESSST BE. HASSS MONIESSSS ON YOU DIE SSSSCREAMING.

HA! HA!

WHAT SSSSO FUNNY?

YESSSSS, WHY LAUGHING, JOHNNY SSSSTORM?

WELL, YOU TWO ARE TAKING BETS ON MY DYING AN AGONIZING DEATH, I'M ABOUT TO FACE WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF GODLESS NIGHTMARE, THIS IS MY, WHAT, TWELFTH FIGHT IN AS MANY DAYS...

AND IT'S WEIRD, BECAUSE ALL I CAN THINK IS, *"HEY, AT LEAST I'M NOT ON FIRE."*

AAIIEEEEE!

NOT YET, ANYWAY.

ANNIHILATION!

ANNIHILATION!

DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT! TODAY, IN THE ARENA... THE HUMAN, JOHN STORM, FACES THE SCOURGE OF SECTOR THREE HUNDRED, THE VANGUARD OF THE CRUNCH, THE VIRR'S GREATEST WARRIOR...

TOK'R THE TERRIBLE!

LOOK HERE, HERO!

I BROKE KYLN FROM BOREDOM BEFORE MAKING MY WAY TO XANDAR. I LAUGHED AS THE WORLDMIND SCREAMED AND ITS CORPS WAS SMASHED...

AND WHAT WILL I DO WITH YOU, BOY?

I WILL RIP AND TEAR AND--

OKAY. THAT'S ENOUGH... I GET IT.

TOK'R IS A VERY SCARY DUDE.

SO DO YOU KNOW IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE HE'S GOING TO ACTUALLY SHOW UP... OR ARE YOU JUST GOING TO SIT HERE AND TALK ABOUT HIM ALL DAY?

RRAARRRRR!

I! I AM TOK'R!

I AM THE SCOURGE OF--

URK!

YEAH... I WAS JOKING.

I'M HILARIOUS TODAY.

THE VICTOR...

IN A BORING AND UNNECESSARILY NON-ENTERTAINING MANNER...

THE MAN LEFT BEHIND...

THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATE...

THE HUMA--

AAUUGGGGGH!

I'M DONE WITH THIS. YOU WANT TO BE ENTERTAINED? FINE...

BE ENTERTAINED.

SSSSSSSSS

BURN, DAMN YOU!

NOT EVEN ALL THE SSSSSSUNSSSSS IN THE SSSKY.

NOT ENOUGH FOR ANNIHILUS.

UJRRKK!

SSSSSS.

OH!

GREAT.

WELCOME BACKSSSSS.

LESSSSS WORMSSSS EACH TIME...DYING SSSSUITSSSS YOU.

YOU GETTING SSSSTRONGER.

ACK!

NOT *SSSSSTRONG* ENOUGH!

GIVE USSSSS THE GATE.

WE CAN DO THIS FOREVER, ANNIHILUS...THAT GATE IS NEVER GOING TO BE OPENED FROM THIS SIDE AGAIN...

WE MADE SURE OF THAT...

I MADE SURE OF THAT.

SSSSSSSSSS.

OKAY... IS THAT MY BREATH, OR YOURS?

RRRARRRRR!

SSSSHOW YOU SSSSOMETHING, HUMAN.

BE-BOOP

ANNIHILUS.

MY GOD... REED.

SSSSSSILENCE.

SSSSPPPPEEEAK, RICHAAARRDS.

YES...WELL, FIRST, I AM NOT THE REED RICHARDS YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH. I AM ACTUALLY FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE...I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THIS CONCEPT.

I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN HOME, BUT TO DO THAT, I AM GOING TO NEED TO ACCESS THE NEGATIVE ZONE...

I'M GOING TO NEED TO BRIEFLY OPEN A VERY LARGE PORTAL TO YOUR HOME.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR YOU TO ASSIST ME IN DOING THIS?

LEEEEAAVE IT OPEN.

OPEN FOR AAARRRMMIES. OPEN FOR DESSTRUCTION...

OPEN FOR ANNIHILATION!

THAT CAN BE ARRANGED.

YOU'LL NEED TO REPRODUCE THESE IN LARGE QUANTITIES AND PLACE THEM AROUND THE KNOWN LOCATION OF A THIN SPACE BETWEEN THE NEGATIVE ZONE AND THIS UNIVERSE...

WE SUGGEST THE STABLE ONE INSIDE THE BAXTER BUILDING.

THEN YOU'LL NEED TO ATTACH ONE OF THESE TO THE PORTAL ITSELF...

IT'LL FOCUS THE FIELD--ATTUNING IT TO ONE EXISTING INSIDE THE PORTAL... REPLICATING AND ENLARGING IT.

I WILL PROVIDE YOUR ANTI-PRIEST WITH THE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS.

WE ARE IN AGREEMENT?

YESSSSSSSS.

WE NEED THIS DONE IN TWO WEEKS AS TIME FLOWS ON THIS SIDE.

DO AS I SAY, AND THIS WORLD IS YOURS.

NOOOOOOO!

LATER.

YOU HAVE TO HELP ME!

LISTEN! IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE AND--

SHUT UP!

ENOUGH, APE-THING... NO ONE IS GOING TO HELP YOU.

I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME WITH THIS RABBLE, HUMAN.

HA! NO ONE IS GOING TO *SAVE* YOU.

ESPECIALLY IF YOUR PLAN IS TO CONVINCE THEM TO OVERTHROW ANNIHILUS...

MAYBE IF YOU JUST WANTED TO RUN?

MAYBE IF YOU KNEW SOME WAY BEYOND ANNIHILUS' REACH?

HE PLANS TO INVADE MY WORLD.

I STAYED BEHIND TO PREVENT THAT. I DIED TO STOP IT.

AND YOU WOULD DIE AGAIN IF YOU WERE FREE OF YOUR CAGE...

THERE IS NO ESCAPING OUR SITUATION--SURROUNDED BY THE HORDE--NOBLE DEATH BEYOND OUR REACH...

WHY RUSH TO ENDLESS FRUSTRATION?

PERHAPS HE KNOWS A SECRET WAY TO KILL HIM?

THAT'S THE THING...

I MEAN, *NO*, I DON'T THINK WE CAN KILL ANNIHILUS...

BUT TO *WIN*, WE DON'T *HAVE TO.*

EH?

SPEAK PLAINLY, HUMAN.

WELL, THE NEGATIVE ZONE IS TRADITIONALLY A PLACE OF UTTER CHAOS--IT'S LITERALLY *THE WILD.*

THE ONLY WAY THE ANNIHILATION WAVE--AND THE GREATER HORDE IN GENERAL--IS KEPT IN LINE IS NOT BECAUSE OF ANNIHILUS...

BUT BECAUSE HE POSSESSES THE IMMENSE POWER OF THE *COSMIC CONTROL ROD.*

HE USED TO WEAR IT AROUND HIS NECK--NICE AND CLOSE...BUT NOW THE COCKROACH IS KEEPING IT ON A STICK.

DISLODGE IT, KNOCK IT LOOSE...*GRAB IT.*

MAYBE WE CAN STOP ALL OF THIS, AND KEEP THE WAVE FROM ATTACKING EARTH AND THE INHUMANS.

MAYBE WE COULD DO EVEN MORE.

HMMM. I THINK IT SOUNDS WORTH A WHIRL.

KAL?

WHOMEVER HOLDS THE CROWN, HOLDS THE PEOPLE.

THE LIGHT BRIGADE...*WILL FIGHT.*

GREAT.

FANTASTIC...

BUT WE'RE STILL STUCK IN A CAGE.

YOU ARE MISTAKEN, HUMAN... THE UNIVERSAL LAWS OF CONVERSION CANNOT BE CONSTRAINED BY GLASS AND STEEL.

I COULD GET US OUT AT ANY TIME.

WELL...WHY DIDN'T YOU THEN?

SURROUNDED. NO WAY HOME... THERE JUST WASN'T ANY POINT. **NOW, WE HAVE A REASON.**

SO...GLORY OR DEATH, JOHNNY STORM? ARE YOU READY TO FACE WHAT'S NEXT?

OH... **FLAME ON.**

THE GATE.

MASSSTER.

URGENT REQUESSSST FROM THE OTHER SSSSSIDE.

HIGHESSST PRIORITY.

SSSSSSSSSS

ANNIHILUS.

SSSSSSPEAK!

A KREE ARMADA IS BOMBARDING THE SURFACE, ANNIHILUS.

WE STAND TO LOSE EVERYTHING WE HAVE BUILT--THE **BEACONS**, AS WELL AS ACCESS TO **THE GATE** AND THIS WORLD ITSELF.

YOUR ORDERS, MASTER?

OPENNNN IT! NOW!

ACCESSSSSSS THE GATE!

OPEN!

OPEN!

OPEN!

PREPARE YOUR GLORIOUS ANNIHILATION WAVE, MASTER...

WE WILL PREPARE THE WAY.

SSSSSSUMMON THE HORDE.

THERE HE IS.

OH, MAN.

THE STAGING APPEARS TO BE NEARING COMPLETION...

SURELY, THIS WILL BE OUR ONLY CHANCE BEFORE THEY ENTER THE GATE.

AND YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN HANDLE YOUR PART?

CONVERSION IS CONVERSION, JOHNNY STORM.

AND **SCALE** IS, AS ALWAYS... AN ILLUSION.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

I CAN **HANDLE** MY PART.

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN NO REASON TO DOUBT US, HUMAN.

THIS IS DESTINY UNAVOIDED, MY FRIEND. LET THE PEACE OF FATE WASH AWAY YOUR FEAR.

BESIDES...

...WE CAN ALWAYS UNLEASH THE HOOUD.

CANDIES...

AND SUGARED TASTIES...

AND FLOWERS DIPPED IN HONEY...

SUPER.

THIS WAS MY FATHER'S SINGULARITY BLADE, JOHNNY STORM. HE DIED FACING A ZN'RX HORDE...

HE WAS ONE MAN AND HE BROKE THEM.

GIVE THE WORD, AND MY FATHER'S SWORD IS YOURS.

NOW YOU'RE TALKING.

MOMENTS LATER.

BA-BOOOOM

SSSSSSSSS

MA5555TER! ANOTHER MESSSAGE FROM THE OTHER SSSSSIDE.

IT ISSSS TIME. THE DEVICCCE IS READY.

WE AWAIT YOUR SSSSIGNAL, ANNIHILUSSS.

SSS--

?

GET READY, VOORR!

I'M GOING NOVA!

NOW!

HOOUD! WE NEED YOU!

SWEET MEATS AND DELICIOUS YUM-YUMS...

FALL, BEAST!

SSSSSSSSS

WHAM

DEATH AND ANNIHILATION!

YESSSSSSSS.

RED CANDIES AND HEARTS...

SAVORY VIOLENCE AND BREAKING...

BLOOD AND ENTRAILS...

SCREAMING AND DYING...

NOW, KAL!

URK!

NO!

KA-FFOOM

SEE, THERE'S A NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS.

FROM A DENSE, HOT STATE, OUR REALITY EXPLODED INTO EXISTENCE. BUT AS SOON AS IT WAS BORN, OUR UNIVERSE BEGAN DYING.

EQUILIBRIUM AND THERMODYNAMICS HAVE LEFT YOU NO OTHER CHOICE...

DO YOU WANT TO BE A SLAVE TO FATE...

...A SERVANT TO YOUR EVENTUAL DEMISE?

OR DO YOU WANT *NEW RULES* FOR A *NEW LIFE?*

EVERYTHING DIES?

NO.

EVERYTHING *LIVES.*

OPEN THE GATE.

ATTILAN.

BLACK QUEEN

I DO NOT LIKE THEM.

I DO NOT *KNOW THEM.*

AS YOU DO NOT KNOW THEM...AS THEY DO NOT YOU.

HOW CAN YOU PRETEND IT IS ANYTHING BUT THAT?

THEY CALL THEMSELVES YOUR WIVES--LIKE I AM YOUR WIFE...

I HAD NO CONTROL OVER WHAT ORIGIN THE UNIVERSE SAW FIT FOR US TO HAVE--*I DID NOT CHOOSE THIS,* MEDUSA-- IT WAS GIVEN TO ME... AND TO YOU.

WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?

THINGS TO BE THE WAY THEY WERE.

WHEN SOMEONE CHANGES AS I HAVE, OTHERS SAY THEY ARE HAPPY FOR THEM-- THAT THEY APPROVE--BUT ACTUALLY LONG FOR WHAT THEY USED TO HAVE...

EVEN IF THAT WOULD MEAN ME BECOMING SOMETHING... *LESS.*

I WILL NOT.

SO THAT'S IT? ACCEPT... OR ELSE?

I DID NOT CHOOSE THEM, I CHOSE YOU...YOU ALONE WILL REMAIN MY VOICE AND SPEAK WITH MY FULL AUTHORITY...

WE STILL HAVE THIS-- A PLACE ONLY YOU AND I SHARE.

AND THAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE ENOUGH?

IT IS ALL I HAVE...

SO I LEAVE OUR FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS.

AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

LOVE ME FOR WHO I AM NOW, NOT WHO I WAS.

SISTERS...

WE MUST MAKE PLANS.

OUR HUSBAND SAYS WE LEAVE TOMORROW FOR EARTH.

DAYS AGO.

"SOMETHING HAS CHANGED..."

DID YOU BRING IT, REED RICHARDS?

THE ARC

YES.

INTERESTING FELLOW, YOUR NEW HERALD. HE WAS JUST AS INSISTENT ABOUT GIVING ME THIS AS HE WAS ABOUT US COMING HERE TO MEET YOU...

WHAT IS THIS, GALACTUS?

LIKE YOU HUMANS FEEL THE SHIFTING OF WIND, I SENSE WHEN WORLDS ROTATE FROM SEASONS OF LIFE TO SEASONS OF DEATH.

VERY SOON, YOUR WORLD IS GOING TO BE BROKEN.

I CANNOT LET THAT HAPPEN.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU ARE TO USE THAT DEVICE, REED RICHARDS...

BUT I THOUGHT--

WE ALL THOUGHT--

YES...

THE *ARC* WILL SUMMON ME.

"IF THE EARTH IS DESTROYED, THEN IN THE FUTURE, YOU WOULD NOT BE.

"WHAT HAS CHANGED?"

THERE IS A GALACTUS SEED ON EARTH.

"THE ASGARDIANS HAVE IT...AND THEY HID IT IN THE WORLD TREE BEFORE I COULD DESTROY IT."

IF THE EARTH IS DESTROYED, IT WILL RELEASE ITS ANCHOR TO THE TREE AND THE SEED WILL TUMBLE THROUGH SPACE TIME TO PLACES LESS *"ACCESSIBLE."*

UNTIL IT IS RETRIEVED FROM THE ASGARDIANS, I CANNOT ALLOW THE SEED BEYOND MY REACH.

AND IF THIS HAPPENS? WHAT THEN?

"I WAS THERE AT THE BIRTH OF ALL THINGS...

"THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE END OF THE PREVIOUS UNIVERSE.

"THERE IS A BOUNDLESS PURPOSE BEHIND WHAT I DO--A STRUCTURE THAT MUST BE MAINTAINED.

"DEATH. BIRTH.

"DEATH. BIRTH.

"THE SEED IS A CELESTIAL MISTAKE. AN ABERRATION... ETERNITY SEEKING TO CORRECT SOMETHING THAT IS NOT FLAWED.

"IF BORN, WHATEVER IS IN IT WILL SEEK TO REPLACE ME...THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN."

AND WHAT IF IT DOES?

MAYBE THIS NEW GALACTUS WOULD BE BETTER...

NO. IT WOULD NOT. IT WILL BE IMMATURE... LACKING RESTRAINT...

EVERYTHING WOULD END... *SOONER.*

SO... THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN.

FOR I *WILL* STAND AT THE HEAT DEATH OF THE UNIVERSE. I *WILL* WATCH AS EVERYTHING DIES AND IS REBORN AGAIN.

TO THAT END, YOU HAVE THE ARC...

WHEN THE TIME COMES, DO NOT HESITATE TO USE IT.

I'LL CALL IF WE HAVE TO, GALACTUS.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO BE AWARE OF?

ONE MORE THING ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE...

YES. THERE IS.

WITH ALL YOUR FOCUS ON THE WORLD, SEEMINGLY TEARING AT ITS VERY SEAMS...

HAVE YOU EVEN NOTICED WHAT YOUR SON HAS BEEN DOING?

REMEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gunslingers Only!

ONE EVENING, AFTER HIS BIRTHDAY PARTY...

REST...

AND REMEMBER WHAT YOU ARE.

ALL ALONE IN HIS ROOM...

A LITTLE BOY CREATED A BABY UNIVERSE.

BUT HE KNEW IF HIS PARENTS FOUND OUT HE'D GET IN TROUBLE... SO HE HAD TO HIDE WHAT HE'D BUILT.

OH BOY...

I'M SCREWED...

I BETTER STICK THIS IN THE CLOSET.

AFTER THAT, A LOT OF STUFF HAPPENED.

BUG SPRAY!

BAD STUFF.

AND THEN THE WORLD GOT SAD...

WAY TOO SAD FOR A LITTLE BOY WHO COULD CREATE A UNIVERSE FROM FAVORITE MEMORIES AND WAKING DREAMS.

WAY TOO SAD A WORLD FOR A BOY THAT HAD HIS OWN.

HERE WE GO, LEECH...

READY...

JUMP!

OUUUFFFFF!

DO YOU SMELL THAT?

STINKY.

YEAH, STINKS LIKE CRIME.

THIS CITY NEEDS A WASH.

IT'S BATH TIME FOR GOTHAM.

IT'S BATH TIME FOR EVIL.

COSTUMES?

YOU BETCHA. THIS IS A JOB FOR...

HYPERSTORM AND KID INCREDIBLE!

THOSE NAMES ARE RIDICULOUS.

SHUT UP!

AND EVEN THOUGH OUR HEROES SPENT THE ENTIRE PREVIOUS PAGE TALKING ABOUT CRIME IN THE CITY, HERE THEY ARE DEFENDING EARTH AGAINST ALIEN INVASION.

PLOT TWIST!

AND THIS ISN'T RIGHT AT ALL...WHY IS VICTOR VON DOOM PLAYING THE PART OF MOLE MAN?

GIVE IT UP, DOOM. YOU'RE DOOOOMED!

SERIOUSLY, SHUT UP!

WHY?

WHY WHAT?

WHY?

WHY WHAT?

YOU'LL BREAK EVENTUALLY, DOOM. HE CAN KEEP THIS UP ALL NIGHT.

WHY?

SERIOUSLY, FRANKLIN, ENOUGH OF THIS... YOU'RE WASTING OUR TIME.

OKAY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WHAT'S GOING ON? PLAYTIME'S BECOMING A BIT PREDICTABLE, ISN'T IT? JUST TWISTY VERSIONS OF EVERYTHING WE'VE SEEN BEFORE...

WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.

I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

UH, OKAY.

FIRST OFF, TO BE FAIR, THIS IS... ON THE SURFACE... VERY IMPRESSIVE.

FULLY REALIZED EARTH, IMPLIED RULES FOR BEHAVIOR, A SUGGESTION OF PHYSICS...

AND IF WE LOOK AT THE EVEN BIGGER PICTURE?

LOOK AT THAT... EVERYTHING.

YOU MADE EVERYTHING.

YEAH, I KNOW. SO WHAT?

WELL, IF FRANKLIN MADE EVERYTHING, LEECH, WHAT DOES THAT MAKE HIM?

GOD!

PFIZZZ... YOU'RE CRAZY. I'M JUST A LITTLE BOY WITH A BIG IMAGINATION.

ACTUALLY, FRANKLIN, YOU'RE TOO CLOSE TO ONE AND NOT ENOUGH OF THE OTHER...

THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO MEET HERE EVERY DAY AND PRACTICE.

PRACTICE.

UGH! WHY?

BECAUSE IF YOU CAN MAKE EVERYTHING, YOU CAN MAKE EVERYTHING BETTER.

CAN'T YOU?

I GUESS.

OKAY, I'M HUNGRY.

SNACK!

BYE!

GOODBYE, LEECH. GOODBYE, FRANKLIN.

BYE!

HEY MISTER... WHO ARE YOU?

OH, JUST CONSIDER ME YOUR BIGGEST FAN.

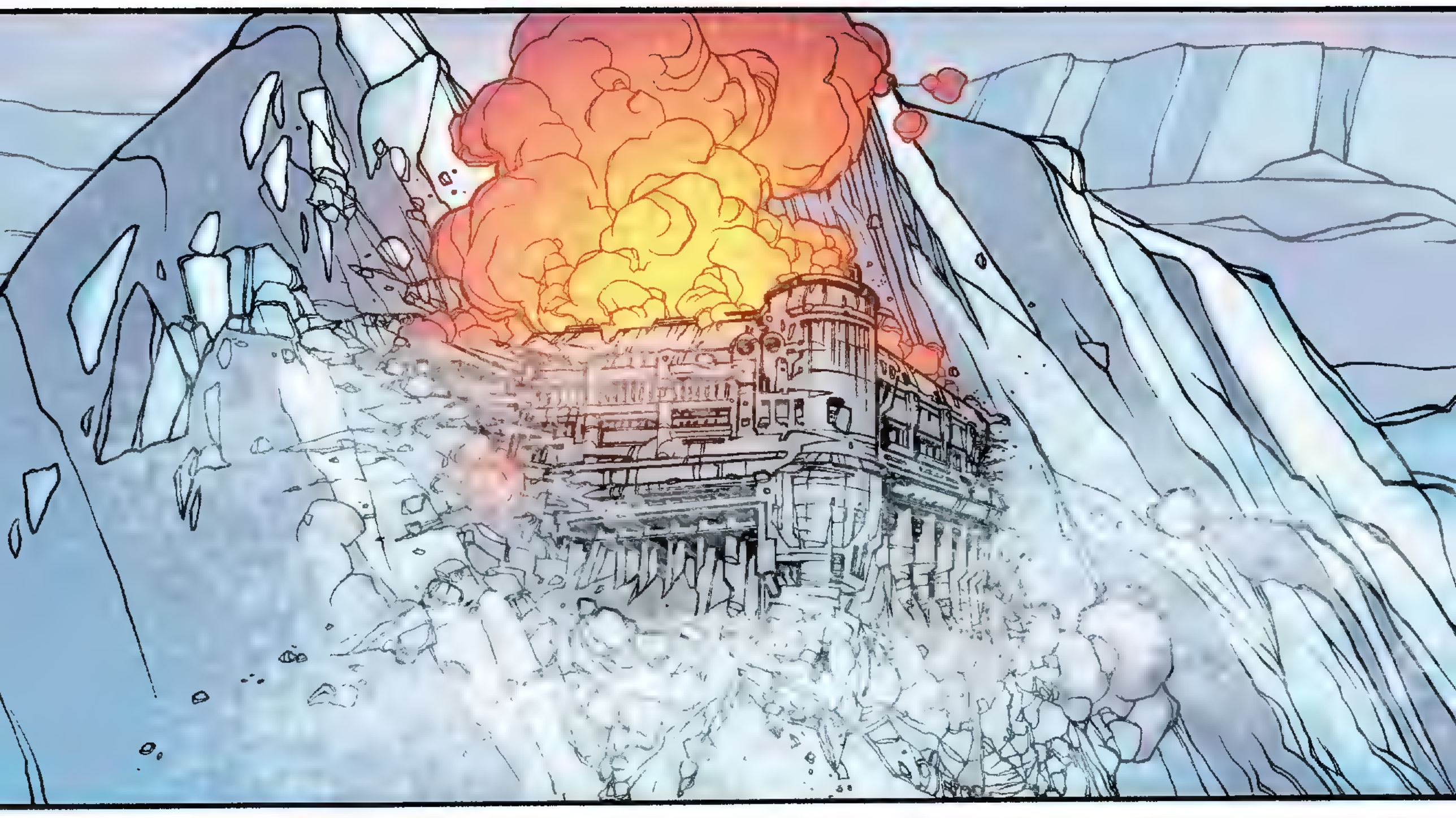
AND THAT'S THE STORY OF THE DAY THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MUTANT DECIDED TO STOP BEING A LITTLE BOY AND BECOME THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO.

MAYBE.

ALL

HALF A WORLD AWAY.

FWASH



CREEE...

SO, VAL, YOU'RE SUPER-SMART...

DID YOU ACTUALLY MEAN TO TELEPORT US INTO A MOUNTAIN?

TRANSLOCATE.

HUH?

TRANSLOCATE. NOT TELEPORT. I *TRANSLOCATED* US INTO THE MOUNTAIN.

OH, OKAY...SO YOU MEANT TO?

NO.

STILL, CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU DID QUITE WELL, VALERIA.

ONE OF US COULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT IF WE HAD STAYED AND BEEN OVERRUN BY ANNIHILUS' DRONES.

I SAY THE BEST CONFLICT IS ONE AVOIDED. WHAT DO YOU THINK, ALEX?

WE HAVE TO GO BACK.

WHAT?

WE ONLY WIRED THE TOP THREE FLOORS OF THE BAXTER BUILDING TO THE TRANSLOCATOR.

THE DRONES WERE AFTER THE PORTAL TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE, WHICH WAS LEFT BEHIND. IF THEY OPENED IT, EVERYONE IS GOING TO NEED OUR HELP.

AND BECAUSE THE BUILDING IS WRECKED, AND ALL OUR SHIPS ARE GONE, THE FIRST JOB IS FINDING SOMEONE TO HELP US GET HOME.

OH, THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE A PROBLEM...

...WE'RE AT UNCLE DOOM'S.

OH, VAL...

I HOPE HE HAS SNACKS.

I HOPE HE LIKES GETTING PUNCHED IN HIS BIG, STUPID NOSE.

NOSE!

THIS IS SO BAD.

NO... BEDTIME IS BAD.

GREEN BEANS ARE BAD.

CRUSHING YOUR RIVALS IS SO VERY *AWESOME.*

"LET'S GET STARTED."

WELL...IT APPEARS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COMPANY.

I SUPPOSE IT'S FAIR TO ASSUME THIS IS YOUR DOING, NATHANIEL?

YES, I'D SAY THAT'S FAIR, REED.

WE SHOULD HAVE KRISTOFF SEND SOMEONE TO PICK THE CHILDREN UP...TIME BEING OF THE ESSENCE AND ALL THAT.

I WISH YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT...

PRETEND LIKE YOU'RE NOT IN CHARGE?

NO, I MEAN...*NO.* NOT THAT AT ALL.

WHAT, THEN?

SAY MY NAME LIKE WE HAVE SOME KIND OF... RELATIONSHIP.

WE DON'T.

I FIND IT INAPPROPRIATE AND AWKWARD.

YES, WELL... THAT'S VERY INTERESTING, *REED.*

I'LL TRY TO KEEP THAT IN MIND GOING FORWARD...

...BUT IN RETURN, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I'LL NEED YOU TO THINK ABOUT AS--

A MOMENT, NATHANIEL... THOSE FOOLS ARE TINKERING AGAIN.

ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE, MY BROTHERS AND I HAD A WORKING THEORY REGARDING THE ***UNIVERSAL DOOM*** AND HIS CAPACITY FOR SELF-DESTRUCTION.

TELL ME, VICTOR...WERE YOU BORN WANTING TO BE BOVINE OR DID YOU COME LATE TO IT?

IMPOSTOR, YOU WILL RELEASE HIM NOW.

KRISTOFF...

NO, FATHER...IT'S TIME FOR THIS TO END.

PLEASE...BE CALM, KRISTOFF. ***PATIENCE.***

NO. I AM DONE WITH WATCHING DOOM BE LEASHED. THE COLLAR COMES OFF NOW.

SOON.

NEVER.

...SOON.

REMEMBER, REED MAKES HIS DECISIONS BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE-- WHAT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.

I MAKE MINE BASED ON WHAT ***WILL HAPPEN*** IN THE FUTURE... SO TRUST ME... ***SOON.***

NOW... KRISTOFF, MY GRANDCHILDREN ARE HERE...

"...SO, BE A GOOD BOY AND SEND A FEW DOOMBOTS TO FETCH OUR GUESTS FOR US, WOULD YOU?"

TIRED.

COLD.

HUNGRY.

TIRED.

COLD.

I COULD TOTALLY EAT ONE OF THE FISH KIDS RIGHT NOW.

DUDE.

JUST SAYIN'... IF THINGS GO ALL DARWIN, BEST THINK SASHIMI BEFORE SUPER VILLAIN.

IT APPEARS WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.

LOOK!

LATER.

OKAY. NO JOKE...

THIS PLACE WOULD BE GREAT FOR PAINTBALL.

PLEASE, FOLLOW ME... THEY ARE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE THRONE ROOM.

YEAH... OR LAZER TAG.

WHAT'S LAZER TAG?

IT'S... NEVER MIND.

ATTENTION! THE RICHARDS SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS... YOUR MAJESTY, I PRESENT TO YOU...

THE FUTURE FOUNDATION.

WHOA!

HELLO, CHILDREN.

GRANDPA!

WELL, HELLO, FRANKLIN...HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET HERE?

IT WAS CRAZY!

THERE WERE THESE BUG GUYS THAT ATTACKED THE BAXTER BUILDING. WELL, FIRST THEY LOOKED LIKE REGULAR GUYS, THEN THEY TURNED INTO BUG GUYS... AND THEN VAL ZAPPED THE BUILDING--MOM'S GONNA BE MAD ABOUT THAT-- AND WE WHOOSHED ALL THE WAY INTO THE MOUNTAINS...

AND THEN WE RODE WITH THE STUPID-LOOKING ROBOTS TO THE CASTLE AND, HEY, DO YOU THINK WE COULD PLAY PAINTBALL IN HERE?

I DON'T KNOW, WE CAN CERTAINLY ASK.

OKAY. I LOVE YOU.

ME TOO. I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ALL ARE HERE.

DON'T BE SILLY, GRANDPA...

OF COURSE YOU CAN BELIEVE IT...I BROUGHT EVERYONE... JUST LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO.

MONTHS AGO.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON, YOUNG LADY?

FRANKLIN AND LEECH SHOWED BENTLEY *STAR WARS* FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST NIGHT. NOW HE WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT NEEDING A LIGHTSABER TO FULFILL HIS DESTINY OF BECOMING A SITH LORD...

I'M HOPING IF I BUILD IT FOR HIM, HE'LL CUT HIS OWN HEAD OFF OR SOMETHING. IDIOT.

WELL, IF IT HELPS, IN THE FUTURE YOU WON'T FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT HIM. BENTLEY TURNS OUT TO BE PRETTY...USEFUL.

SO, DOES IT WORK?

LET'S SEE...

SHFVHMMMMM

WHOA.

I MAY HAVE TO KEEP THIS FOR MYSELF.

THEN DO IT. YOU DID MAKE IT, AFTER ALL.

YEAH, BY THE WAY, GRANDPA... YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T DO THAT.

ENCOURAGING LESS-THAN-NOBLE BEHAVIOR IN MY GRANDCHILDREN?

NO. WELL, I GUESS NOT THAT ***EITHER.*** BUT WHAT I MEAN IS ALL THE HINTS ABOUT THE FUTURE YOU KEEP DROPPING...

YOU SHOULDN'T DO ***THAT.***

OH, REALLY, VAL...

AND WHY IS THAT?

BECAUSE!

YOU COULD SCREW EVERYTHING UP. TEMPORAL ANOMALIES, CASCADING EVENTS, COLLAPSING TIMESTREAMS...

YOU KNOW THIS!

YOU'RE A TIME TRAVELLER!

WELL, THAT'S NOT HOW IT REALLY WORKS.

BESIDES, IF YOU REALLY BELIEVED THAT...

"...WHY DID YOU SNEAK OFF AND MAKE A DEAL WITH DOOM?"

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

BECAUSE YOU COME FROM THE FUTURE, RIGHT?

NO. BECAUSE *ALL HOPE LIES IN DOOM.*

OH, SNIZZ... YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FRANKLIN THAT VISITED ME FROM THE FUTURE?

I SENT HIM TO YOU.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE REST?

THE DEAD MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

THE FUTURE MAN MUST RETURN TO SAVE THE PAST.

I REMEMBER.

YOU'RE THE FUTURE MAN, AREN'T YOU?

YES.

NOW...

HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

NOW.

WE'RE GOING TO DO WHAT?!

YOU HEARD ME, KRISTOFF...

WE'RE GOING IN.

OR STAY, IF YOU WANT.

YOUR KIND IS NEVER DEPENDABLE IN A CRUNCH.

JERK REED HAS A POINT... A GOOD SUPER VILLAIN DOESN'T DO *FREAKING OUT.*

YOU... ARE FREAKING OUT.

IT'S EMBARRASSING.

--TT-- DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, KRISTOFF. YOU'RE VERY RELIABLE--TOTALLY STEADFAST...

AND BESIDES, WE'RE REALLY GOING TO NEED YOUR DOOMBOTS.

FATHER... YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING SINCE WE GOT HERE, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WE?

NOTHING.

I, HOWEVER, WILL BE BURNING THIS IMPOSTOR'S MEAT FROM HIS BONES.

BUT NOT UNTIL WE HAVE COMPLETED THE NECESSARY TASK BEFORE US.

WE WILL LEAD OUR ARMIES INTO BATTLE BESIDE THEM--COMPANIONS OF A UNIFIED CAUSE--BUT WE WILL DO SO ON ONE CONDITION...

RELEASE YOUR COLLAR.

SEE, KRISTOFF, AS I SAID... *SOON.*

I HAVE NOT AGREED TO THIS...

YOU WILL.

...

FINE.

BUT NOT UNTIL WE CROSS THE THRESHOLD. I DON'T WANT YOU BETRAYING US OR RUNNING AWAY.

DOOM *DOES NOT* RUN.

SUPER!

NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED...

LET'S GET STARTED.

OH, VAL... WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN US INTO THIS TIME...

YOU SCARED?
DON'T BE...
LITTLE.
THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR...
IT'S TOTALLY SUPER HERO TIME.
HEY, ALEX... I'VE GOT TO GET SOMETHING.
I'LL MEET YOU GUYS DOWNSTAIRS.
YOU WANT ME TO COME WITH YOU?
NO. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK...
YOU JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT ME.

TK

WE'RE HERE.

OKAY... I'M BACK.

YOU GOT WHAT YOU NEEDED?

YEAH... IT SHOULD DO.

IS IT FUNCTIONAL?

OH, YES. IT'S BUILT TO WITHSTAND MUCH MORE THAN... ALL THIS.

OUR CONCERN IS THE BUILDING'S POWER SOURCE.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

DAD BUILT THIS WITH ITS OWN INDEPENDENT, SHIELDED GENERATORS. EVERYTHING LOOKS FINE...

WELL, MOMENT OF TRUTH...

ARE YOU READY FOR ME TO TURN IT ON?

YES.

ACTIVATE THE BRIDGE...

...IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO *HOME.*

FOREVER

PART TWO

4 NEW YORK.

THE SURFACE OF THE SHIELD PROTECTING THE CITY IS PERFECTLY SMOOTH-- SUBATOMICALLY FRICTIONLESS, THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO AFFIX THE ANTI-MATTER TRIGGER...

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, COMMANDER?

WEEP THAT YOU WILL NEVER SEE THE BURNING SKIES OF HALA AGAIN.

WE SACRIFICE OURSELVES FOR THE SUPREMOR... DETONATE THE BOMB.

KA-BOOM

FEEDBACK!

AAIEEE!

4 SOHO.

COME ON! I HAVE TO GET YOU CLEAR OF THIS. HE CAN'T HOLD THEM OFF MUCH LONGER.

NO.

BEENNNNN!

AREA CONTAINMENT NEARING COMPLETION.

LOCALIZED THREAT HIGHLY RESISTANT--ACCESSING RECOMMENDED PROTOCOL...

ACK!!

TERMINATION.

YEAH, WELL... THIS'S BEEN COMIN'-- MAYBE IT'S PAST TIME.

WHAT ARE YA WAITIN' FOR?

AARGGG!

4 THE REMAINS OF THE BAXTER BUILDING.

JOHNNY?

YEAH...

AND, SERIOUSLY... WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

REED AND THE KIDS CAME UP WITH NEW UNIFORMS.

WELL, THEY'RE HIDEOUS.

YOU'RE DEAD.

YOU DIED.

...

MORE THAN ONCE. STILL BETTER LOOKING THAN YOU ARE.

OH MY GOD...

IT'S REALLY ME, PETE.

YOU'RE ALIVE!

OKAY, OKAY...PUT ME DOWN.

SO...NICE FIREWORKS.

YEAH. WORLD ENDING. KREE INVASION. YOU KNOW THE DRILL.

YES. YES, I CERTAINLY DO.

HERE, HOLD MY ANNIHILUS...

...THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO DO.

IS THAT...

MY GOD...

PROXIMITY ALERT.

REASSESSING TARGETS.

WHA--

OH.

AIN'T THAT SOMETHIN'...

OOOOFF!

COMMENCE TERMINATION-- COMPLETE--AND PROCEED TO SUPPLEMENTARY TARGET.

WARNING! REVISING THREAT MATRIX.

PRIMARY TARGET INCREASING RESILIENCE.

CALCULATING TASK COMPLETION... CALCULATING...

REPORT AMENDED TEMPORAL SCHEDULE.

UHH! REPORT AMENDED TEMPORAL SCHEDULE...

IS THAT SOME KINDA ROBOT WAY OF ASKIN' WHAT TIME IT IS?

WHAM

WELL... LET ME HELP YOU OUT WITH THAT.

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

YOU OKAY?

YES.

OKAY. I GOTTA GO TO WORK, ALICIA.

I KNOW. DID I HEAR EVERYONE...IN THE SKY, WAS THAT REALLY..?

I'M GETTIN' READY TO FIND OUT.

THE FOREVER CITY. 4

WE'VE STABILIZED THE TRANSITIONAL BLEED AND PREPARED A NUTRIENT FIELD ON THE FLAGSHIP--THE INTELLIGENCE IS READY FOR TRANSPORT.

GOOD, WE'VE WASTED TOO MUCH TI--

SUPREMOR!

LOOK!

"THE INHUMAN CITY...

"...IT IS BEING JOINED BY ANOTHER."

HERE WE ALL ARE--AN ASSEMBLY OF FATE...

ALERT THE *FIST OF HALA*. TELL THE SUBCOMMANDER TO PREPARE NEGA-BOMBS...

I WANT NOTHING LEFT OF THEM OR THIS WORLD.

IT IS TIME, ACCUSER.

THIS IS NOT WHAT I INTENDED, SUPREMOR...

NOTHING IS BIRTHED WITHOUT BLOOD BEING SPILLED, ACCUSER...NO GREAT POWER RISES WITHOUT COST.

YOU HAD A VISION FOR A REBORN EMPIRE-- THIS IS IT.

WE *WILL* DO GREAT THINGS.

NO. I CANNOT.

YOU GAVE ME LIFE AGAIN, RONAN... SO I LEAVE YOU WITH YOURS.

REMEMBER THIS MERCY...

...AND SAVOR THE FEW HOURS YOU HAVE LEFT.

4 THE REMAINS OF THE BAXTER BUILDING.

JUST LOOK AT YOU--

--YOU LOOK OLDER.

I AM.

TIME FLOWS DIFFERENTLY IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS GONE HERE, BUT--

THIS IS SO AMAZING...

YOU WERE GONE EXACTLY TWO THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVEN HOURS HERE, SO, JUST OVER TWO YEARS IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

WHEN WE GET THROUGH ALL THIS, I'M GOING TO WANT TO REALLY CHECK YOU OUT, JOHNNY...

OF COURSE.

IS THAT..?

SURE IS. THE COSMIC CONTROL ROD IS HOW I--

SSSSSSS!

WHOA!

GIVE... ISSS MINE!

WHUMP

ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM?

SSSSSSSSS!

BECAUSE IT ISN'T LIKE YOU AND I ARE ANYWHERE CLOSE TO FINISHED...

SSSSSSSSS.

HOW MUCH LONGER?

THE ATTACK WING IS REGROUPING ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MILES OUT.

WE'LL TAKE A POSITION ON POINT, SPLINTER THEM, AND THEN PICK THEM OFF...

WE CAN DO THIS.

IT'S A HARASSING MANEUVER, CAP.

THE MAIN FLEET IS GOING TO START BOMBING US FROM SPACE WHILE WE'RE TIED UP WITH THE LOW ORBIT WING. WE HAVE TO--

SUSAN, WITHOUT SOM--

EXCUSE ME.

I COULD HOLD THE CITY.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR ALL OF THIS... *POSTURING.*

WE ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL THREAT.

REALLY? JUST LIKE THAT?...

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SON?

KAL, THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA.

CAP, THIS IS KAL BLACKBANE, THE MIDNIGHT BLADE, THE SECOND CHAIR, AND POLESTAR OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

YEAH, WELL...GEORGE WASHINGTON HAD A HORSE NAMED NELSON.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

HE MEANS... CAN YOU DO WHAT YOU SAY?

THIS IS THE WORLD YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

OUT WITH IT--DO YOU HAVE SOME WAY TO LEAD YOUR PEOPLE TO VICTORY OUT THERE?

YOU MISUNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN...IT IS *NOT* I THAT LEADS HERE...

...IT IS HE.

WE'VE ESTABLISHED CONNECTION, MONARCH. WE ARE READY FOR AMPLIFICATION.

GOOD. ENGAGE THE OBELISKS.

EXPAND THE GATE.

I BELIEVE THE QUESTION WAS, HOW CAN I DEFEAT A KREE ARMADA...

IT'S SIMPLE.

I HAVE MY OWN...

"THE ANNIHILATION WAVE."

THAT'S A LOTTA SHIPS.

MY GOD...

WHOEVER HOLDS THE COSMIC CONTROL ROD RULES THE NEGATIVE ZONE. AS SUCH, THE WAVE IS MINE...

I PLAN ON PUTTING IT TO GOOD USE.

PROTECT THE WORLD, AVENGERS...

LEAVE THE HEAVENS TO THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

SO... YOU GUYS WANNA SEE MY BATTLESHIP?

4 LATER.
THE FLAGSHIP: *PESTILENCE.*

WHAT'S THE WORD, KAL?

THE LIGHT BRIGADE HAS ASSUMED CONTROL OF ALL THE SECONDARY COMMAND VESSELS.

WE FOLLOW THE STORM.

OKAY THEN...HERE WE GO.

YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

DEFENDING THE WORLD WITH A BUNCH OF BARELY CONTROLLED, DEATH-SEEKING, BUG PEOPLE THINGS?

YEAH, REED...I'M ALL OVER IT.

ACCORDING TO THESE READINGS, FLEET SIZES APPEAR TO BE SOMEWHAT EQUAL.

CAN WE TAKE THEM?

"ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT."

4 THE KREE ARMADA. THE FIST OF HALA.

THE SIGNATURES OF THE ATTACKING FLEET READ AS THIRD GENERATION ANTI-VESSELS...

AN ANNIHILATION WAVE FROM THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

PROBABLE OUTCOME?

THEY ARE INFERIOR, SUPREMOR. WE WILL PREVAIL.

THEN LET THEM ALIGHT THE TERRAN SKY.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHIN' NASTY FOR 'EM, KIDDO-- BETTER USE IT NOW!

RETURN FIRE!

SSSSSSS!

SHIELDS HOLDING.

TAKE US *CLOSER.*

WAIT!

A SUPERMASSIVE SHADOW HAS JUST APPEARED ON OUR DISPLAY.

"IT'S THE *INHUMAN* CITYSHIP."

BE-DOOP

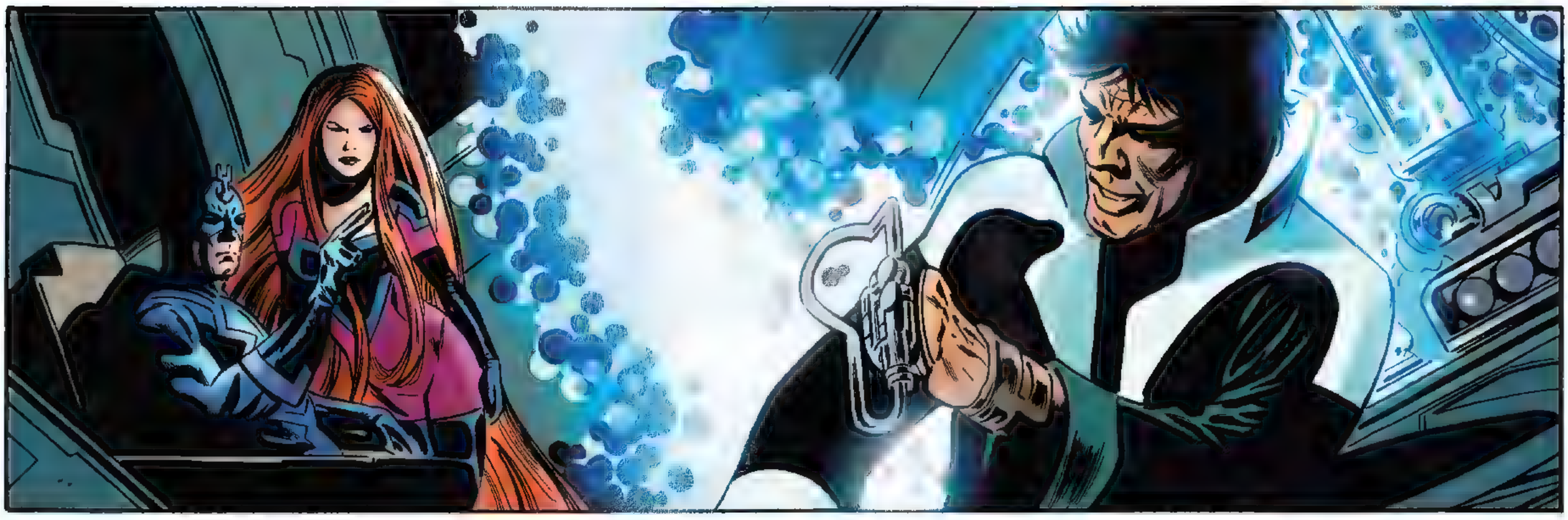
HELLO, SUSAN.

MEDUSA! WHAT ARE--

MY HUSBAND POLITELY REQUESTS THE HONOR OF DESTROYING THESE KREE INTERLOPERS...

NEW HALA IS SACRED INHUMAN TERRITORY.

OH, WELL THEN...*HAVE AT IT.*



THAT'LL SHOW 'EM!
FOLLOW THEIR LEAD!
OH BOY.

REED. CAN YOU READ ME?

YES, TONY. IS THERE TROUBLE WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE ASSAULT WING?

NO...

I THINK WE'VE GOT A MUCH DIFFERENT PROBLEM DOWN HERE.

DEBRIS IS MAKING IT THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE INTACT.

BOOM

BOOM

OH, NO...

BRRR-BRRRRRRRR

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, REED?

THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE WIN UP HERE...

BECAUSE THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE MUCH OF AN EARTH LEFT WHEN IT'S OVER.

HOPE

LATVERIA. THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE BAXTER BUILDING. NOW.

VAL... PLEASE ACTIVATE THE MACHINE.

SO...WHEN YOU TURN THIS THING ON, IT OPENS A GATEWAY TO WHAT USED TO BE SOME KIND OF SUPER-HEADQUARTERS FOR ALL THOSE WEIRD REEDS...

BUT THEN THEY GOT BEAT BY THESE SUPER-BAD GUY GODS AND NOW THOSE GUYS LIVE THERE?

YEAH, BENTLEY. SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

COOL. LET ME DO IT.

I BELIEVE WE'RE MAKING A MISTAKE HERE, ALEX. I HYPOTHESIZE IMMINENT VIOLENCE.

FURTHERMORE, I'VE SEEN NOTHING HERE TO SUGGEST CAREFUL AND CAUTIOUS BEHAVIOR.

HAVE SOME FAITH, DRAGON.

EVERYONE HERE IS SMART ENOUGH TO LOOK BEFORE THEY LEAP.

OKAY. ALL GOOD.

WE'RE READY, EVIL DAD.

WE WERE GOING TO MOLD EVERYTHING INTO SOMETHING BETTER...AND NOW...

NOW...

JUST OPEN IT.

CLUMP

OKAY...

MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT.

QUICKLY, SECURE THE PERIMETER ON THE OTHER SIDE.

EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE, FRANKLIN.

I'M NOT WORRIED, VAL...

THIS *FEELS* LIKE THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

RACE YOU THROUGH.

OH, BOY.

THE BAXTER BUILDING.
NEW YORK CITY.
THEN.

THE TERM, "TIPPING POINT"-- I ASSUME YOU KNOW THIS EXPRESSION?

OF COURSE, GRANDFATHER. EQUILIBRIUM SHIFT.

CAN YOU HAND ME THAT NOTEBOOK?

WHAT? I LIKE WRITING THINGS DOWN.

ANYWAY...

YES... EQUILIBRIUM SHIFT. I MENTION IT BECAUSE IT'S *RELEVANT.*

IN THE CONTEXT OF *ALL THAT I HAVE TOLD YOU,* AND *ALL THAT YOU HAVE OBSERVED...*

HOW DO YOU THINK THAT RELATES TO OUR CURRENT SITUATION?

OHHHH...

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT *CATASTROPHE THEORY.*

VERY GOOD, CHILD.

A SERIES OF EVER-WORSENING, RUINOUS EVENTS THAT INDIVIDUALLY REPRESENT A *"SYSTEM-WIDE"* THREAT, BUT WHEN COMBINED, CONSTITUTE THE PERMANENT OBLITERATION OF SAID SYSTEM...

THE SYSTEM IS, IN THIS CASE, ALL MANKIND.

OKAY, I'M READY TO GO.

HERE. BEST TO BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.

GRANDFATHER... I DON'T MEAN TO BE, *UHH,* DISRESPECTFUL...BUT IS IT POSSIBLE THERE ARE SOME HOLES IN YOUR THEORY?

CHUCKLE-- HOW SO?

WELL...WHY DON'T WE JUST WORK TO PREVENT ONE OF THE EARLIER BAD THINGS?

AH! YOU MEAN STOP THE CASCADING NATURE OF THE EVENT BEFORE IT BEGINS.

SEEMS OBVIOUS.

BECAUSE, VALERIA...

THERE ARE THINGS THAT HAPPEN WE ARE ALLOWED NO CONTROL OF.

"THERE WAS NO PREVENTING THE REBIRTH OF THE CELESTIAL REDEEMER, BLACK BOLT.

"AND WHILE IT DOESN'T ALWAYS OCCUR HERE ON EARTH, THE UNIVERSAL RESPONSE--THE REGENESIS OF THE KREE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE--DOES, IN FACT, ALWAYS HAPPEN.

"WAR BETWEEN THE TWO, AND THE EXTERMINATION OF EARTH, IS INEVITABLE, AND CAN ONLY BE HELD AT BAY BY JOHNNY STORM'S ANNIHILATION WAVE.

"THE REASONS FOR IT HAPPENING WILL VARY, BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A DYING EARTH WILL SPARK THE RETURN OF GALACTUS.

"AND THE MAD CELESTIALS WILL ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THIS UNIVERSE AS IT HOLDS THE LAST REEDS FROM THE COUNCIL."

EVERYTHING ELSE...THE CREATION OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION, THE WAR OF FOUR CITIES...

ALL OF THESE THINGS HAVE ONLY CREATED MORE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

AND WHAT'S THAT, GRANDFATHER?

WE HAVE TO SPREAD OUT THE OCCURRENCE OF THE EVENTS.

WE HAVE TO DELAY...

WE HAVE TO *FIND MORE TIME.*

AND IF WE DO THAT, WE'LL WIN?

IF WE DO THAT... WE'LL HAVE A *CHANCE.*

NOW...WE'LL NEED A PLACE TO DO OUR WORK IN PRIVATE--AWAY FROM PRYING EYES AND OTHER CURIOUS CHILDREN.

READY?

YES.

NOW. HOOLLOOD!

ZAFF

HHHRNNNNN

ZAP-KK-FF

ZZZAKKKKK

NOW IS THE TIME-- RELEASE ME, RICHARDS.

SILENCE, DOOM! I CAN ACCESS MY INFINITY GAUNTLET IF I MAKE IT TO THE PORTAL TO MY UNIVERSE.

I NEED ALL OF YOU TO BUY ME TIME ENOUGH TO--

NO! FREE MY FATHER FIRST!

YOU FOOLISH CHILD, DO YOU HAVE--

NO, KRISTOFF'S RIGHT...

LET UNCLE DOOM GO, OR THIS IS GONNA GET SKETCHY.

THE *ULTIMATE NULLIFIER!*

VAL, THIS ISN'T--

NO, GRAMPA... THIS IS WHAT HE UNDERSTANDS.

ISN'T IT?

IT APPEARS SO...

DOOP

I HAVE NEVER FREED A DOOM BEFORE, CONSIDER THIS THE IMPOSSIBLE REALIZED, VICTOR.

NEVER AGAIN.

AND I HAVE ACHIEVED NOTHING... YET.

UHHHH, SORRY TO INTERRUPT ALL THE POSTURING, BUT, GUYS...

SOMETHING'S UP WITH FRANKLIN.

IT'S WEIRD, LEECH, I CAN HEAR THEM THINKING... I THINK THEY'RE SICK OR SOMETHING.

SO, YOU GOT ANY ADVICE?

WIN.

OKAY.

HELLO.

YOU HAVE TO STOP ALL THIS.

INTERESTING/ FASCINATING/CURIOUS. OBSERVING/ANALYZING/ DECONSTRUCTING...

HUMAN. MUTANT...*ANOMALY.* BEYOND OMEGA CLASSIFICATION.

DANGER/ THREAT/ HARBINGER.

DESTROY/ TERMINATE/ END.

ZAAK

THAT'S WEIRD.

WHY WOULD YOU SHOOT FLOWERS AT ME?

AND WHY ARE THEY GROWING OUT OF YOUR HEAD?

I NEVER IMAGINED...

HE'S A PRETTY SPECIAL BOY.

HE IS... BUT THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH.

WATCH.

REALITY DISTORTION/ UNIVERSAL SHAPER.

CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE KEY. ATTACK/ DISABLE/CRIPPLE ITS MIND.

HUH?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THIS IS YOUR FUTURE/FATE/ EVENTUALITY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

IF YOU WANT/DESIRE/ WISH IT, YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER. IF YOU WANT/ DESIRE/WISH IT, YOU WILL SEE EVERYONE YOU LOVE DIE/PERISH/ CEASE TO BE.

YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME!

THEY WILL HATE/DESPISE/ LOATHE YOU FOR IT.

THEY WILL HATE/DESPISE/LOATHE YOU AND YOU WILL BE ALONE FOREVER. ETERNITY IN ISOLATION.

NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!

GO AWAY!

OHHHHH.

CH-CHUNK

HOW OMINOUS.

SKUU-KRUNK

IS THE BRIDGE DAMAGED? CAN YOU CLOSE IT?

NO! IT'S JAMMED OPEN.

OH, WE ARE SO SCREWED.

RUN!

VAL?

SIXTEEN MINUTES.

SO YOU CAN'T LEAVE YET...

YOU NEED MORE TIME, DON'T YOU?

HOW DO YOU--

YOU'RE TRYING TO AVOID A PARTICULAR FUTURE--THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.

ARE YOU SURE YOUR TEMPORAL MECHANICS ARE CORRECT?

I'VE HAD SOME HELP.

THEN PERHAPS THIS WILL HELP. IT'S THE TRIGGER TO THE ANVIL.

GIVE ME THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER, CHILD.

MYSELF AND MY BROTHERS CAUSED ALL OF THIS. I WILL TRY TO REACH MY BRIDGE AND BUY YOU THE TIME THAT YOU NEED.

GO.

I WAS ONLY EVER TRYING TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT FOR EVERYONE.

I DID MY BEST...

OKAY, LET'S GO...EVERYONE THROUGH THE BRIDGE. IF WE CAN'T CLOSE IT, WE'LL TRY TO DESTROY IT FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

I AM STAYING AS WELL.

WHAT?

YOU HEARD ME, CHILD.

THAT MAN IS A POOR SHADOW OF YOUR FATHER, AND EVEN HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO THIS HIMSELF.

MY PEOPLE LIVE WITHIN REACH OF THAT GATE...WHO BUT DOOM COULD BE TRUSTED WITH THIS BURDEN?

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO YOU.

YOU ARE WORRIED? YOU THINK THIS COULD BE THE END OF ME?

YES.

DO NOT WORRY, VALERIA, I WILL NOT DIE-- I KNOW IT.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?

BECAUSE... I AM DOOM.

DESTROYER OF WORLDS...WHAT GODS DARE STAND AGAINST ME?

FOREVER

PART THREE

4 ABOVE EARTH.
THE END OF THE WORLD.

"THE SURFACE IS BEING BOMBARDED BY DEBRIS, JOHNNY..."

WE HAVE TO MOVE BOTH FLEETS AWAY FROM THE PLANET!

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED--WE'RE *LOSING*, REED...

THE ANNIHILATION WAVE IS BREAKING!

"WE'RE BEING CRUSHED BETWEEN THE *KREE* AND THE GRAVITY WELL OF EARTH..."

WE'RE STUCK IN AND GOING NOWHERE.

REED! WE HAVE TO USE THE--

I KNOW.

CAP, HOW MUCH LONGER CAN YOU LAST DOWN THERE?

WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN...

BREAK ITS BACK, JEN.

OH, BOY...

WHAMM

OOFFF!

JOHNNY! BUY US A BIT MORE TIME. WE'RE GOING TO CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS.

YEAH, OKAY... HURRY!

WE'LL BE HERE UNTIL WE'RE NOT.

BETCHA WISH YOU WERE STILL IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE, DON'T YOU?

BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH...

AND IT'S NOT GOING TO LAST MUCH LONGER.

NOT A BIT, PAL.

NOT ONE BIT.

WE NEED A SAVE, REED... AND WE NEED IT NOW.

SCHEMATICS SHOWED AN ISOLATED OBSERVATION DECK THREE LEVELS UP...

...WE'LL HEAD THERE. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE *DEVICE* WILL DO WHEN I ACTIVATE IT.

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SHIELD THE AREA OFF FROM THE REST OF THE SHIP.

I JUST HOPE IT ACTUALLY WORKS...AND WORKS FAST.

"WE CAN'T AFFORD ANY DELAYS."

BA-BOOM

AARGGGG!

WHAT THE--

CAN'T BE GOOD.

HULL'S BEEN BREACHED...

INFESSSSTATION!

PUSH THEM BACK!

WE CAN'T LOSE CONTROL OF THE SHIP!

HOOLDDD!

I'M SORRY, BOYS...BUT I'M IN A BIT OF A RUSH.

I ASSUME YOU'RE GOING TO POLITELY MOVE OUT OF MY WAY AND LET ME GET ON WITH IT?

ALL RIGHT THEN.

THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM!

NAH...THAT JUST MEANS YOU SWING AND CAN'T MISS!

WHAM

ENOUGH OF THIS...

GET OFF MY SHIP.

I KNOW... THIS IS NOT HOW YOU PLANNED FOR THINGS TO GO.

WRONG BATTLE.

WRONG WORLD...

WRONG LADY.

WHAM

ON YOUR FEET, OLD MAN...

EVERYONE STILL NEEDS SAVING.

OKAY.

4 ATTILAN. CITY-SHIP OF THE UNIVERSAL INHUMANS.

WE'VE LOST MANEUVERABILITY... WE'RE HEADED DIRECTLY INTO THE CORE OF THE KREE FLEET.

MY LORD BLACK BOLT!

DO WE ABANDON THE CITY?

NO. WE CONTINUE! FORWARD TO VICTORY--A THRUST...

...STABBING RIGHT INTO THEIR VERY HEARTS.

4 THE FIST OF HALA.

REPORT!

AS EXPECTED... THE WAVE HAS CRACKED BEFORE OUR ARMADA.

THE ANOMALY'S CITY SHOWS POWER FLUCTUATIONS AND A FLAT VECTOR--ITS PATH WILL BRING IT INTO OUR SHADOWS.

A GIFT.

IGNORE EVERYTHING BUT ATTILAN.

"LET THE INHUMAN LINE END HERE AND FOR ALL TIME."

4 THE PESTILENCE.

THIS IS IT.

WE'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

I'LL SEAL THE ROOM.

BEFORE I DO THIS...MAYBE I'M NOT THINKING OF EVERYTHING. MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER SOLUTION.

ARE WE SURE...?

ON EARTH, DEATH METAL IS FALLING FROM THE SKY--MUCH MORE WILL, I'M SURE, TRIGGER THE EFFECTS OF A NUCLEAR WINTER.

HE SAID "A SEASON OF DYING," REMEMBER?

EARLY FROST, THEN?

WAY PAST NIPPY.

ALL RIGHT...

HERE WE--

ARGH!

SUPREMOR!

A SINGULARITY!

BROTHER!

ROYALS!

A HOLE IN THE HEAVENS.

IT WORKED...

HE'S HERE.

YESSSSSSSSS.

DEATH.

ARGGH!

UHHHH...

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

YOU SAID... WE WOULD KNOW.

WE WOULD KNOW THE TIME...

THIS IS IT, GALACTUS.

NO...

THIS IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT, A *PREAMBLE*...

I HAVE CONSUMED *FOUR WORLDS* IN ANTICIPATION OF SOMETHING GREATER...

REED, WHAT IS...

I DON'T... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, GALACTUS?

YOU, REED RICHARDS... I SPEAK OF YOU.

I WILL HANDLE THE KREE.

JOHNNY! PULL THE FLEET BACK.
CAN'T DO IT, REED!
GALACTUS JUST SHOWED UP--
I KNOW. I'M THE ONE WHO CALLED HIM HERE.
WHAT?! STRETCH, I TELL YA...AT SOME POINT YOU'RE GONNA LEARN TO--
IT WAS MY IDEA...
HUH?
PULL YOUR FLEET BACK, JOHNNY.

TARGET INTACT!

OUR NEGA-BOMBS HAVE NO EFFECT!

SUPREMOR... WE *CANNOT WIN.* WE MUST RETREAT, WE CANNOT SUS--

SILENCE!

THE ANOMALY? HOW CLOSE IS THE INHUMAN VESSEL?

WITHIN THE TERMINATION LINE OF OUR SPHERE--AND ALSO IN BETWEEN US AND THE--

ALERT!

ALERT!

SOMETHING HAS APPEARE--

THIS IS WHY I AM HERE.

THIS IS THE DEATH I HAVE SEEN FORESHADOWED.

MAD GODS HAVE COME TO DESTROY US ALL.

THE CELESTIALS HAVE ARRIVED.

LIES

I CREATED NEW WORLDS... I SAVED UNIVERSES...

THIS CAN BE DONE AS WELL...

THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE BAXTER BUILDING.
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE.

MEH.

THIS IS SO BORING.

IS UNCLE DOOM GOING TO DIE?

YES, VALERIA. ONCE HE GOES THROUGH THE DOOR--HE NEVER RETURNS.

HOW ARE WE DOING ON TIME?

NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

WE *REALLY* HAVE TO GET THE BRIDGE SHUT... *DRAGON!*

PULL!

I WOULDN'T CALL IT HERCULEAN, OR EVEN VALIANT, BUT I AM PUTTING CONSIDERABLE EFFORT INTO THE TASK AT HAND.

THESE FINGERS WILL NOT BUDGE.

PULL!

MAYBE IF WE MAKE THEM LIGHTER?

EASE THE LOAD.

OH... CRAP.

THEY'VE FUSED WITH THE PORTAL...

IT'S ALL ONE STRUCTURE-- WE'VE GOT TO FIND ANOTHER WAY.

IT'S NOT ALL ONE BIG PIECE UNLESS WE WANT IT TO BE.

SERIOUSLY... WE SAW THEM SHOOT OVER HERE AND BLOCK THE DOOR.

THEY WEREN'T TOGETHER THEN. HOW COULD THEY BE NOW...

MAYBE WE'RE JUST LOOKING AT EVERYTHING WRONG.

THUNK

SEE.

SUCK IT, SPACE GODS.

WELL DONE, FRANKLIN.

YEAH. SUPER...

NOW HURRY AND DO THE REST.

HEY! STRANGE HEAVENLY THINGS OCCURRING WITH THE GOD FINGERS.

PLANETARY DOOM VIA SPOKEY ENERGY FILAMENTS. THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.

NOT GOOD AT ALL.

CHK

HEEEYYY. NOW WE'RE TALKING.

TOTALLY *NOT BORING.*

OH, NO.

CHAK

T-CHLOK

HAND OF GOD ENGAGED. PARA-HOST ONLINE.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE: MAINTAIN THRESHOLD...

KEEP THE GATE OPEN.

THEN.

FWASH

WHERE ARE WE, GRANDFATHER?

A QUIET PLACE THAT USED TO BE SO MUCH MORE...

BETTER DAYS GONE BY.

AND NOW... SIMPLY WHERE WE WILL WORK.

WHATEVER. CREEPY.

SO... OUR PLAN.

BECAUSE YOU COME FROM THE FUTURE...

ALL FUTURES.

IT'S AN IMPORTANT POINT.

OKAY. ALL FUTURES...AND IF YOU KNOW ALL OF THESE EVENTS THAT ARE GOING TO HAPPEN--AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF THEM...

YES, AS I'VE SAID, SOME EVENTS--SOME TEMPORAL OCCURRENCES--ARE BEYOND THE INFLUENCE OF INDIVIDUALS.

THINK OF THEM AS "*UNIVERSAL CONSTANTS.*"

THE ONE THAT CONCERNS US IS AN ALTERNATE REED WILL ALWAYS ACTIVATE THE BRIDGE.

CAN'T WE JUST DESTROY IT?

NO. THAT WOULD BE WORSE--THEY WOULD BUILD THEIR OWN, A NEW ONE. AT LEAST NOW, LOCATION IS NOT A VARIABLE.

SO WHAT, THEN?

WE HAVE TO SPREAD THE CONSTANTS OUT...

FIND *MORE TIME.*

WHERE IS IT?

OKAY, I GET IT. ESPECIALLY IF THE MAD CELESTIALS ARRIVING TO DESTROY EARTH IS ONE OF YOUR CONSTANTS.

IF WE CAN MAKE IT SO THAT EVERY EVENT DOESN'T HAPPEN ON TOP OF EACH OTHER...

THEN WE CAN BUY THE SHORT TIME WE NEED.

HA! FOUND IT!

HOW MUCH?

EXCUSE ME?

TIME, GRANDPA...

EXACTLY HOW MUCH TIME DO WE NEED?

TWENTY-SEVEN MINUTES.

0

27

SERIOUSLY?

VERY MUCH SO.

TWENTY-SEVEN MINUTES. LONG ENOUGH FOR GALACTUS TO PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ANNIHILATION WAVE...

...BUT SOON ENOUGH THAT HE REMAINS ON STAGE--AS HE HAS A LARGE PART TO PLAY IN THE EARTH'S SURVIVAL.

WE NEED THAT ONE LITTLE THING TO KICK THINGS BACK...AND YOU'VE ALREADY SET THE WHEELS IN MOTION.

0

SPACE BATTLE

(KREE v ANNIHILATION WAVE)

GALACTUS

CELESTIALS

27

CAN YOU SHOW ME WHAT THAT IS, DEAR?

ALL HOPE LIES IN DOOM!

0

YES...ALL HOPE LIES IN DOOM.

YOU THINK HE CAN BUY ENOUGH TIME?

YES. WHEN MOTIVATED, VICTOR IS AN ALMOST UNSTOPPABLE MAN...

ENOUGH TO GIVE EVEN THE GODLIKE CELESTIALS PAUSE.

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.

IT'S CONVINCING DAD, ISN'T IT?

THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL LET DOOM BE INVOLVED, RIGHT?

NO.

REED WILL SEE THE LOGIC BEHIND IT AND MISS OUR ACTUAL INTENTIONS.

WELL, WHAT THEN?

THE PROBLEM WILL BE CONVINCING DOOM TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF.

NOW.

CLEVER... CLEVER CHILD.

MOVE ASIDE, DOOM.

WATCH AS I END THIS.

ZAKKKK

FOCUS.

THEN.
THE COUNCIL OF REEDS.

THIS IS THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS ALL OTHER DOORS.

BROTHER, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?

THAT'S AN *ULTIMATE NULLIFIER.*

TO USE IT IS TO *DIE.*

SUCH AN ALLURING AND FORBIDDEN THING.

NOT TRUE, BROTHER.

IT IS A MYTH THAT THE NULLIFIER, WHILE BEING THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE UNIVERSE, ALWAYS DESTROYS THE PERSON USING IT...

IT CAN BE USED.

THE DEVICE REQUIRES COMPLETE *FOCUS.* ALIGNMENT OF MIND AND PURPOSE.

AND WHO BUT US DEFINES SUCH A THING?

THIS IS HOW IT STARTS, THE BUILDING OF BETTER TOMORROWS...

AND A GREAT COUNCIL TO DO EVEN GREATER THINGS.

NOW.

WE COULD HAVE CHANGED EVERYTHING.

IT FALTERS/ WAVERS/ FAILS.

NOOOO!

AARGHHHHH!

THE REED JUST BLEW UP-- *WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!*

ONLY ONE LEFT.

ONE!

SURELY THERE IS SOME OTHER WAY TO RESOLVE THIS THAN CONFLI-- *WHOA!*

I HAVE TO GO HELP *DOOM.*

YOU'RE NEEDED HERE, KRISTOFF.

SAVE THE CHILDREN, JUST AS YOUR FATHER INTENDED.

THIS... THEN DOOM.

HOLD, FATHER!

WAIT FOR ME!

SWASH

DO YOUR WORST...

IT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH.

DESIGNATE MAN/THING/ ANNOYANCE.

IRRELEVANT.

THE FINAL RENEGADE/ INTERLOPER/ ANARCHIST LIES BEYOND THE BRIDGE/ PORTAL/GATE.

MOVE ASIDE MAN/THING/ ANNOYANCE...

MOVE ASIDE AND LIVE.

THEN.

WHO BUT DOOM COULD BE TRUSTED WITH THIS BURDEN?

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO YOU.

AND... AND...THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO KNOW.

WHAT IS IT, VALERIA?

EVEN THOUGH IT COULD MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH: WE TRICKED YOU-- *I TRICKED YOU.*

I MADE EVERYTHING SEEM LIKE A FAIR TRADE, BUT I KNEW ALL ALONG THAT IT LED TO THIS...YOU BUYING US TIME. YOU SACRIFICING YOURSELF.

I'M SORRY, UNCLE DOOM. I'VE BEEN A VERY BAD GIRL.

SOME OF US LIKE YOU THAT WAY.

I WILL BUY YOU THE TIME YOU NEED.

THEN THERE'S ONE MORE THING YOU SHOULD KNOW...

FOOLISH CHILD...

YOU ARE WORRIED? YOU THINK THIS COULD BE THE END OF ME?

YES.

DO NOT WORRY, VALERIA, I WILL NOT DIE-- I KNOW IT.

I AM DOOM.

DESTROYER OF WORLDS...WHAT GODS DARE STAND AGAINST ME?

NOW.

I AM A FOOLISH, PRIDEFUL MAN.

PERHAPS THIS IS THE DAY I PAY TOO HIGH A PRICE FOR IT.

THE BRIDGE/ PORTAL/GATE WAVERS.

REMOVE YOURSELF, MAN/THING/ ANNOYANCE.

NO!

I AM *DOOM.*

THE DAMNED... DO YOUR WORST, I WILL REMAIN UNMOVED!

ZZZAKKKK*

I DID IT!
CLOSE THE BRIDGE!
HURRY! DOCTOR DOOM HAS FALLEN!
NO! FATHER!
CLOSE IT! NOW!
POWERING OFF.
POWERING DOWN.
GOOD NIGHT, SWEET DISASTER.
HEL-LO, NEW NIGHTMARES!
OOP!
OOP!

CH-CHUNK

SCCRRPEEE

GET OUT!

GET OUT! RUN!

I TOTALLY HAD SOME COOL STUFF IN THERE.

LOOK!

SUCCESS/ TRIUMPH/ACCESS ACHIEVED.

THE FINAL RENEGADE/INTERLOPER/ ANARCHIST IS HERE. I SENSE HIM/IT.

ENGAGING IN ANNIHILATION/ ELIMINATION...

NOW.

TWENTY-EIGHT MINUTES. WE DID IT.

WE BOUGHT ENOUGH TIME.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

NOW... WE PLAY FOR EVERYTHING.

FOREVER

PART FOUR

4 GODS.

YOU ARE UNWELCOME HERE.

GO BACK TO THE TWISTED UNIVERSE THAT SPAWNED YOU.

A WORLD-EATER/PLANET-KILLER.

UNEXPECTED/ UNFORESEEN.

IT SKEWS PROBABILITIES.

LEAVE! OR LIVE NOT TO SERVE YOUR FINAL PURPOSE. WHAT HAPPENS HERE DOES NOT CONCERN/AFFECT/ INVOLVE YOU!

AND YET, HERE I AM. A SURE, AND STEADFAST, DESTROYER OF WORLDS.

LOOK INTO MY MIND AND SEE THAT I KNOW YOUR PURPOSE.

LOOK THERE AND SEE THAT *GALACTUS* STANDS AGAINST YOU.

IT KNOWS! IT KNOWS!

DESTROY/ OBLITERATE/ ELIMINATE!

IT... IT'S ALL... IT'S...

TOO BIG.

WE HAVE TO GET CLEAR OF THIS.

4 THE FIST OF HALA.

SUPREMOR!

THE GODS BLEED HEAVY RADIATION. OUR SHIELDING IS NOT ENOUGH...THE ARMADA BREAKS!

I GO GLADLY BEFORE YOU, SUPREMOR... BUT KNOW THAT IT IS DEATH FOR ALL OF US IF WE STAY.

WE AWAIT YOUR COMMAND.

TAKE US HOME.

RETURN ME TO MY EMPIRE.

4 ATTILAN.

ENGINES RESTORED, BROTHER...

AND THE KREE ARE FLEEING.

FOLLOW THEM OR STAY HERE, MY LOVE?

THE KREE JUST JUMPED OUT OF THE SYSTEM WITH THE INHUMANS ON THEIR TAILS...

WE DID IT.

IF BY *WE*, YOU MEAN THE SCARY SPACE GIANTS...YEAH, YAY US.

GREAT JOB.

JOHNNY...

I'M GETTING AN EMERGENCY ALERT--THE H.E.R.B.I.E. *HOME* NETWORK.

YOU THINK IT'S THE KIDS? I SHOULD BE ABLE TO...

YES. THE SAME FREQUENCY AS ALWAYS--

GOT IT. SHOULD BE COMING UP NOW.

ATTENTION! INVADING ALIEN SCUM!

I AM BENTLEY, SCOURGE OF MAN, DESTROYER OF HOPE, AND I ALSO HAVE A PASSING INTEREST IN DINOSAURS-- PREPARE TO SURRENDER NOW!

IF YOU FAIL TO YIELD, I WILL BE FORCED TO GRIND YOUR PATHETIC FLEET INTO A HUGE, STEAMING PILE OF--

OOOFFF!

SORRY, DAD. WE'VE HAD AN EXCITING DAY AND, LIKE, NO TIME FOR NAPS.

I ASSUME THE CELESTIALS ARRIVED...AND GALACTUS SHOULD BE THERE AS WELL...

HOW DO YOU KNOW--

GRANDPA-- BUT THERE'RE OTHER THINGS THAT ARE WAY MORE IMPORTANT.

MORE THAN CELESTIALS FIGHTING GALACTUS... YOU'VE HAD SOME DAY, HAVEN'T YOU, YOUNG LADY?

YEAH.

I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA GROUND ME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT.

GO ON.

THE REASON THEY ARE HERE IS BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPER-SECRET REED COUNCIL--THEY'RE HERE FOR YOU, DAD.

WHAT?!?

YEAH... AND BEFORE HE DIED, ONE OF THE OTHER REEDS GAVE US A WAY TO MAYBE STOP THE CELESTIALS.

WE NEED TO MEET AT A PLACE THEY BUILT CALLED THE HUB.

4 MEANWHILE:
HEAVEN WEEPS.

ALIGN/MERGE/ COMBINE...

COMBINE.

COMBINE.

COMBINE.

COMBINE.

NO.

HHHHRRRRNNNNNNNNN

WHEE

THE HUB. EARTH.

UNCLE JOHNNY!

HEY, BIG GUY. MISS ME?

TOTALLY!

HEY! THERE'S SOMETHING GROSS STUCK TO YOUR ARM.

NEGATIVE ZONE STUFF. IT'S OKAY--IT COMES OFF.

OKAY. THAT'S GOOD.

'CAUSE, SERIOUSLY... GROSS.

WAIT UNTIL YOU GET A GOOD LOOK AT ANNIHILUS LOCKED UP IN THE BELLY OF THE SHIP.

WHAT'S GOING ON, DAD? IT'S OBVIOUS YOU KNOW MORE THAN WHAT YOU'VE LET ON...

MUCH MORE, SON...BUT NO TIME FOR THAT NOW. THE CELESTIALS WILL BE HERE SOON--WE HAVE TO ARM THE DEVICE.

AND THIS IS WHAT THE OTHER REEDS FROM THE COUNCIL WERE DOING WHILE THEY WERE HERE ON EARTH?

YEAH. THEY CALLED IT SOL'S ANVIL...

IT'S TOTALLY A GOD KILLER.

THE LIGHT BRIGADE HAS REOPENED THE PORTAL TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE...WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.

KEY'S LOCKED IN.

POWERING UP THE WEAPON.

ACCESSING NODES.

4 OLD ATLANTIS.

4 THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

4 THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.

4 THE FOREVER CITY.

IT'S ON. ENERGY READINGS ARE STEADY, AND... MY GOD, THE POWER OF THIS THING.

SEISMIC READINGS ARE OFF THE CHART... THIS THING COULD--

UH-OH.

IT'S *TIME*, REED.

YOU NEED TO USE THE WEAPON...

RRRUPTURE

"USE IT NOW!"

"FIRING!"

ZZZZZZAAA

THE ANVIL'S RECHARGING...WE'LL BE BACK TO FULL POWER IN--

DAD, I THINK IF WE USE IT AGAIN, IT MIGHT TEAR THE PLANET APART.

IT DOESN'T MATTER, SON...

"...NO MATTER HOW DIFFERENT THE SURROUNDING SITUATIONS, YOU NEVER GOT MORE THAN ONE SHOT."

EVERYONE GET BEHIND ME!

LLZZAAKKKK

SPIDEY! CATCH--

ARGGHH!

UHHHHH.

I CAN'T HOLD THIS BACK FOR LONG, REED!

JOHNNY!

NOVA!

BURN LIKE THE SUN AND EVEN HOTTER WITH THE CONTROL ROD?

YOU BET.

NO WAY.

ZZZAKKK

AARGH!

REED...

FOCUSING SYSTEM IS SHOT.

FEEDBACK FRIED THE CONDUITS AS WELL. WE CAN'T ACCESS THE SOURCE.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!

GUN'S USELESS.

THINK!

HOLD ON, SUSAN. I NEED MORE TIME!

I...

I... CAN'T...

FRANKLIN--*DO SOMETHING!*

WHAT?

I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO YET.

UH-OH...

HHHHRRR

ZZZ-AWWW

AHRMMM
THERE! THE FINAL RENEGADE/ INTERLOPER/ ANARCHIST.
NOW WE/ I/US CLOSE THE LOOP/END THIS IMPERFECTION.

ПРОЛОГ

GET AWAY FROM HIM.

ЗЕМЛЯ

"THE COMING DAYS ARE GOING TO BE DARK...

"DARK AND FULL OF LOSS.

"IT WILL FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BREAK APART...

"THAT IT WILL SHATTER AND EVERYTHING WILL END.

"ONLY YOU CAN HOLD US TOGETHER.

NO.

"CAN YOU BE STRONG, MOTHER?

"STRONGER THAN YOU'VE EVER BEEN BEFORE?

REMOVE YOURSELF. THE RENEGADE/ INTERLOPER/ ANARCHIST MUST EXPIRE/CEASE/ DIE.

YOU GO TO HELL.

ACHERON

"THERE WILL BE A MOMENT WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO GIVE UP.

"YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO LET GO...

WHU...

WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?

"WHEN YOU REACH THAT POINT, LOOK INTO THE SKY.

"LOOK UP...

"AND REMEMBER THE PRICE THAT WAS PAID."

IT'S EVERYTHING, REED...

IT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

"IT'S OUR CHILDREN."

MOMENTS AGO.

SUCCESS/ TRIUMPH/ ACCESS ACHIEVED.

THE FINAL RENEGADE/ INTERLOPER/ ANARCHIST IS HERE. I SENSE HIM/IT.

ENGAGING IN ANNIHILATION/ ELIMINATION...

NOW.

TWENTY-EIGHT MINUTES. WE DID IT.

WE BOUGHT ENOUGH TIME.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

NOW... WE PLAY FOR EVERYTHING.

SUPER...

...TOO BAD WE'RE STUCK ON THIS MOUNTAIN WITH NO WAY TO GET WHERE WE NEED TO BE.

MIGHT I SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST?

MIGHT I FURTHER SUGGEST THAT THE OPTIMAL USE OF OUR TIME BE SELF-EXAMINATION AND THE REALIZATION THAT, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, OUR ACTIONS LEAD TO VIOLENT CONSEQUENCES.

PERHAPS I COULD--

BE-DOOP

OKAY. I SAVED THE DAY. RIDE'LL BE HERE IN JUST A MINUTE.

WE'LL BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD AND BACK IN THE FIGHT BEFORE DRAGON CAN SAY "PACIFIST."

=SIGH=

HOLD STILL, TONG. NO MORE FLYING AROUND SHOUTING BAD WORDS. HAVE GUN, WILL HOVER!

HE'S NOT JUST A HEAD IN A JAR, HE'S A DISC OF DEATH!

THE FLOATY HEAD OF DESTRUCTION!

RRRRRRRRR!

FATHER!

RRAARR!

KRISTOFF! STOP!

WHAT?!

HE'S GONE.

IF I CAN GET TO THE BRIDGE, THEN--

THE CONTROL MECHANISM IS DESTROYED, THE DEVICE HAS NO POWER... YOU DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO REPAIR IT...

AND DOOM IS GONE.

I... I...

HE WAS MY FATHER. I CAN'T--

I UNDERSTAND. BUT THE PEOPLE NEED YOU NOW.

YOUR PEOPLE.

I'M NOT--

LOOK, EVERYONE...!

OUR RIDE'S HERE.

FRIDAY!

SOMEBODY CALL FOR A TAXI?

HEY, GUYS.

POWER! PACK!

I'M TOTALLY GOING TO STEAL THIS SHIP.

HURRY, VAL!

EVERY SECOND MATTERS!

I'M COMING.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, KRISTOFF...ABOUT DOOM...

"...I'M REALLY SORRY."

THREE MINUTES LATER.
OVER THE ATLANTIC.

...BEFORE HE DIED, ONE OF THE OTHER REEDS GAVE US A WAY TO MAYBE STOP THE CELESTIALS.

WE'LL MEET YOU AT A PLACE THEY BUILT CALLED THE HUB...

ALEX IS SENDING YOU COORDINATES.

WE'LL MEET YOU THERE.

AND, VAL...YOU WERE RIGHT...

WHEN ALL THIS IS DONE, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY GROUNDED.

OKAY, DAD.

GROUNDED.

"HERE WE ARE.

"AT THAT PLACE, RIGHT BEFORE THE VERY END.

"WHERE EACH SECOND HANGS ON--DISTORTING TIME--CLINGING TO EXISTENCE BEFORE SLIPPING AWAY INTO EXTINCTION...FOLLOWED BY THE NEXT MOMENT SPRINGING INTO BEING.

KRAK

"WHEN WE LOOK AROUND AND REALIZE EXACTLY HOW MUCH WE LOVE THOSE WE CHOOSE TO SURROUND OURSELVES WITH.

"WHEN WE--"

SERIOUSLY.

COULD YOU JUST BE QUIET FOR A SECOND?

"OKAY."

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.

YOU CAN KEEP TALKING...

JUST NOT SO MUCH WEIRDO STUFF.

FAIR ENOUGH. I THINK I CAN MANAGE THAT...

HAVE YOU BEEN DOING WHAT I ASKED?

YES.

I KEEP IT HERE--NEAR MY HEART.

BUT...

"...BUT I HAD TO USE SOME.

"EVERYBODY NEEDED SAVING."

I HAD TO TRY, RIGHT?

YOU CANNOT HELP WHO YOU ARE, FRANKLIN...

AND WHO WOULD ANY OF US BE IF WE DIDN'T?

HOPEFULLY, IT'LL STILL BE ENOUGH. *OH!*

WE'RE HERE.

"IT'S ALMOST TIME."

THE HUB.

THERE IT IS.

LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT THING.

"PAY ATTENTION. JULIE'S GETTING READY TO SAY SOMETHING IMPORTANT."

AND IT'S DEFINITELY HORROR-FILM, GOTCHA-ARCHITECTURE--ARE WE SURE THIS IS SAFE?

UH, GUYS? I THINK *MAYBE* IT'S A TRAP.

SERIOUSLY? YOU SURE?

UH-HUH.

ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

HEY!

WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!

WE KNOW BECAUSE WE CAN SMELL YOU!

COME OUT SO I CAN PUNCH YOU IN YOUR SUPER-UGLY FACE.

LOOK!

HEY, WHATTAYA KNOW...YOU WERE RIGHT.

GREAT.

GREAT!

"THE EVOLVED MOLOIDS OF THE FOREVER CITY--TRADE LABOR THAT BUILT THE CONTROL MECHANISM FOR SOL'S ANVIL.

"ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS MAINTAIN THEIR CURRENT STATE."

ADVANCE!

EVOLVE!

RAARRRRRRR!

OOOFFF! SORRY, SORRY...

PLEASE STOP.

EXCUSE ME... PLEASE STOP...NO NEED FOR ALL THIS HOSTILITY.

RRAAARRR!

STOP HITTING--GO AWAY!

NO-- ABSOLUTELY NOT! I REFUSE TO ENGAGE YOU IN THIS UNREFINED BEHAVIOR.

SCORE.

OOFFF!

OOP!

SMASH

THEIR HELMETS!

SMASH THEIR HELMETS AND THEY REVERT TO MOLOID FORM.

I COULD STOP ALL THIS RIGHT NOW. ARE YOU SURE I CAN'T USE MY POWERS?

"YES. WE'LL NEED THEM LATER TO SAVE THEM ALL."

I GUESS.

I JUST REALLY WANT EVERYBODY TO BE OKAY.

"OH, THEY'LL BE FINE. I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS IS ONE EXCEPTIONAL CLASS OF STUDENTS."

OLÉ.

SMASH

HEH!

HMM. POWER SOURCE. YEP.

TWO OCTAVES HIGHER AND THIS SHOULD DO JUST...

...FINE.

EEEEED

POP

POP

POP

POP

OKAY... FIGHT'S OVER. YOU'RE WELCOME.

NOW TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE THIS THING WORK.

LATER.

IT'S EDUCATION, NOT EVOLUTION, THAT WILL SAVE YOU!

WE WILL TEACH YOU WORDS AND HOW TO USE A FORK.

THE TIME HAS COME--NO MORE POOPING ON THE FLOOR!

COME WITH US--LEARN ABOUT THE MIRACLE OF INDOOR PLUMBING.

YOU SHOULD BE BACK AT WHAT'S LEFT OF THE BAXTER BUILDING BY THE TIME WE USE THE MACHINE. IF YOU SEE A CASCADING ENERGY WAVE--OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF END TIMES EXTINCTION EVENT...

GET THE CLASS THROUGH THE PORTAL TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE AND CLOSE IT BEHIND YOU.

YES. SELF-PRESERVATION IS ALWAYS THE WISEST COURSE OF ACTION. PERHAPS...

NO. WE HAVE TO STAY--SO YOU AND ALEX ARE IN CHARGE. DON'T LET US DOWN.

WE WON'T, SIR.

CAREFUL.

IT'S OKAY. EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE. YOU'LL SEE.

YOU'RE MUCH TOO YOUNG TO BE TELLING PEOPLE THINGS YOU THINK THEY NEED TO HEAR.

FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

I GUESS.

DID YOU EVER HAVE A BEST FRIEND LIKE LEECH?

SOL'S ANVIL.

OKAY. I THINK WE'VE GOT IT.

POWER IT ON?

NO. ARMING THE DEVICE BEFORE WE'RE READY TO USE IT WOULD ONLY DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE IT.

WE ALSO DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE FOURTH POWER SOURCE: THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

SO WE WAIT UNTIL EVERYONE ELSE ARRIVES.

HEY... GUESS WHAT...

...EVERYONE JUST ARRIVED.

UNCLE JOHNNY!

HEY, BIG GUY. MISS ME?

TOTALLY.

WHAT'S GOING ON, DAD? IT'S OBVIOUS YOU KNOW MORE THAN WHAT YOU'VE LET ON...

MUCH MORE, SON...BUT NO TIME FOR THAT NOW. THE CELESTIALS WILL BE HERE SOON--

"--WE HAVE TO ARM THE DEVICE."

POWERING UP THE WEAPON.

ACCESSING NODES.

IT'S ON. ENERGY READINGS ARE STEADY, AND... MY GOD, THE POWER OF THIS THING.

RUMBLE

WHOA.

THE POWER OF THE SUN, CHANNELED THROUGH A FIXED POINT, BUTTRESSED BY THE EARTH HERSELF...

SOL'S ANVIL IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON EVER CONSTRUCTED SOLELY BY MAN.

"IT WON'T BE ENOUGH."

HHHRRRAAAA

OH, CRAP.

THIS IS GOING TO HURT A BIT.

ZZZZAAAPP

MINUTES LATER.

"WAKE UP, FRANKLIN."

OW.

WHAT HAPPENED...

I DON'T--

OH, WAIT.

THIS IS ALL SO BAD...

I'M SCARED.

"LOOK UP, FRANKLIN."

OH!

"DON'T BE SCARED...

"THERE'S NO NEED."

I'M HERE NOW.

FOREVER

PART FIVE

...IT WORKED.

HEY... JUST SO YOU KNOW...

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY FAVORITE HERO.

--????/!!!!/????--

GO AHEAD AND GET A GOOD LOOK.

FIGURE IT OUT.

HUMAN. MUTANT...ANOMALY. BEYOND OMEGA CLASSIFICATION. AGAIN.

REALITY DISTORTION/ UNIVERSAL SHAPER/ GALACTIC CONSTANT... DANGER

DANGER.

DOOM.

UH-HUH. NOW THINK ABOUT IT FOR A MINUTE.

FANTASTIC FOUR

FRANKLIN... VALERIA...

GOOD TO SEE YOU MADE IT TOO, OLD MAN.

OH, GOD... I DID EVERYTHING I...

I WAS BEGINNING TO DOUBT THAT... DOESN'T MATTER--

YOU DID IT, SON...

YOU DID IT!

THINGS LOOKED PRETTY SKETCHY WHEN THE REVISION WAVE HIT THE 45TH CENTURY, BUT *SOMEHOW* HE WAS ABLE TO PULL IT TOGETHER...

YOU KNOW OUR FRANKLIN, HE'S A PRETTY SPECIAL BOY.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, GRANDFATHER.

YOU TOO, DEAR.

EVERYTHING PERFECTLY ROUND ON YOUR END? ANY RADICAL DEVIATIONS FROM EXPECTATIONS?

NO. *WELL...* THE GRAY REED SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO BUY US TIME.

SERIOUSLY? I THOUGHT THAT--

VAL.

WHAT?

SAY HELLO.

OH. RIGHT...

HI, MOM.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CELESTIALS?

YOU JUST DESTROYED THEM WITH A WAVE OF YOUR HAND? YOU CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

NO.

"I SENT THEM TO THE INNER SPHERE OF A LOCAL GAS GIANT.

"IT'LL CONFUSE THEM MOMENTARILY--BUY US A FEW MOMENTS, BUT IT WON'T WORK AGAIN.

"THEY'LL BE BACK SOON."

AND WHEN THEY DO...CAN YOU BEAT THEM?

I HAVE TO.

I'VE MISSED YOU, DAD...

IT'S BEEN *TOO LONG.*

FRANKLIN...

TIME.

RIGHT.

HEY THERE.

HEY.

YOU READY?

UH-HUH.

IT'S WEIRD YOU'RE NOT IN MY HEAD ANYMORE.

SO DO I JUST GIVE IT TO YOU?

YES.

OKAY.

I SAVED IT UP--EVERYTHING I'VE GOT--JUST LIKE YOU SHOWED ME.

GOOD.

HOPEFULLY, IT'LL BE--

THEY'RE BACK.

AHA
SMASH
WHOOO

CAN HE WIN?

JUST FRANKLIN AGAINST ALL THREE REMAINING CELESTIALS?

YES. CAN HE?

NO.

"BUT HOLD HOPE--FRANKLIN WILL FIND A WAY.

"HE'LL FIND ONE, BECAUSE HE HAS TO."

WHY?

I HAVE SEEN HUNDREDS OF ITERATIONS OF THIS DAY--RELIVED IT COUNTLESS TIMES.

I HAVE INTERCEDED. I HAVE MANIPULATED. I HAVE DONE EVERYTHING I COULD TO PRODUCE A NEW OUTCOME...

AND MY EVERY EFFORT HAS FAILED.

UUHHHH!

"YOU SEE, SON. THIS WAS THE DAY ALL YOUR SINS CAUGHT UP TO YOU..."

IT'S THE DAY YOU DIED.

"BUT FRANKLIN FIGURED IT OUT...

"AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE IT.

"HE WOULDN'T *STAND FOR* IT.

"EVERY BOY DESERVES A FATHER."

"HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?"

HOW DID ALL THIS HAPPEN?

YOU WALKED THROUGH THE BRIDGE.

SO IF HE--

NO. THERE ARE UNIVERSAL CONSTANTS--THINGS THAT ALWAYS HAPPEN.

"YOU ALWAYS WALK THROUGH THE BRIDGE.

"YOU ALWAYS MEET THE COUNCIL...YOU ALWAYS MEET ALL THOSE YOUS.

"WITH THEM, YOU ALWAYS BUILD SUNS AND SAVE UNIVERSES...

"WITH THEM YOU ALWAYS WAKE THE MAD SPACE GODS...AND THEY *ALWAYS* DESTROY THE COUNCIL."

I ALWAYS HELPLESSLY WATCH AS--EVEN THOUGH YOU WALKED AWAY--YOU ALWAYS PAID THE PRICE FOR BEING PART OF IT.

I WATCH AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

AAHHH!

AARRGGHH!

"BUT THAT'S HOW IT IS FOR ANY PARENT, ISN'T IT?

"YOU DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN...

"YOU DO YOUR BEST.

"THEN ONE DAY YOU'RE FINISHED, AND YOUR CHILDREN HAVE SIMPLY BECOME WHO THEY ARE GOING TO BE."

RISE.

"THIS IS WHO YOUR SON WILL BE.

"THIS IS WHO HE IS.

RISE!

RISE!

"THROUGHOUT ALL OF SPACE AND TIME...THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS HAS HAD MANY HERALDS...

RISE!

"FRANKLIN HAS HAD ONLY ONE."

TO ME... MY GALACTUS!

KIDDO, YOU ARE SOMETHIN' ELSE.

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, GRANDFATHER--THAT IT WOULD BE FRANKLIN. I THOUGHT THE WEAPON, OR GALACTUS, OR--

HE DIDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T READY TO UNDERSTAND.

SO YOU ONLY HAD A ROLE... YOU PLAYED A PART.

AT THE AGE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, WE CAN'T BE TRUSTED.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

THE COUNCIL.

AH...

YOU THINK I MADE THE WRONG CHOICE.

...

BECAUSE YOU DID.

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.

ALL OF THIS CAME FROM REED JOINING THE COUNCIL--BEING PART OF ALL THOSE REEDS TRYING TO MAKE BETTER WORLDS.

"HE LEFT THEM BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO MAKE THE SACRIFICE EACH OF THEM HAD--HE REFUSED TO ABANDON THOSE HE LOVED FOR THE GREATER CAUSE.

"THEY PUT THE WELL-BEING OF THE MULTIVERSE AHEAD OF THE FEW...THEIR FAMILIES.

"IT WAS A LOGICAL, RATIONAL CHOICE--BUT THE WRONG ONE."

SEE, FRANKLIN FIGURED IT ALL OUT...

"THE COUNCIL BUILT SUNS AND SAVED UNIVERSES...

"THEY CONSTRUCTED GREAT MACHINES FOR GOOD WORKS...

"BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR CHOICE, THERE WAS ONE THING THEY WERE NOT CAPABLE OF..."

ARRGHH!

THERE WAS *ONE THING* REED COULD *CREATE* THAT THEY COULD NOT.

"LOOK UP AT THE LIFE YOU MADE.

?

"LOOK AT THE ONE WHO WOULD SACRIFICE HIMSELF...

"SO THAT WE ALL MIGHT LIVE."

!

NO!

AND FOR A MOMENT, THERE WERE TWO SUNS THAT DAY.

THEY MARKED THE SKY VICTORIOUS-- THE EARTH STOOD, HER HEROES THE DIFFERENCE.

THEY HAD ENDURED TOGETHER:

OLD FRIENDS...

NEW ONES...

AND THE GENERATION TO FOLLOW.

THEY WATCHED UNTIL THE SECOND SUN FLICKERED OUT...

...THE LIGHT EXTINGUISHED.

THE SIGN OF THE ABANDONED.

THE LEFT BEHIND...

AND THE LOST.

BUT IT ALSO MEANT A SECOND CHANCE...

IT SIGNALED A NEW DAY--A FUTURE... REGAINED.

FOR IF WE LIVE, THERE IS HOPE.

AND IF WE HOPE, THEN THERE IS TOMORROW.

AND IF TOMORROW...

THEN... FOREVER.

THE FANTASTIC FOUR

4 EPILOGUE.

UMMM...

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I'LL CATCH YOU.

UMMM...

I DON'T THINK...

I'M RIGHT *HERE.*

THIS ISN'T HOW IT'S WORKED BEFORE-- I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT.

LET'S DO SOMETHING ELSE, OKAY?

LOOK AT ME, SON.

IT'S OKAY TO BE *AFRAID.*

IT'S OKAY TO *FAIL.*

BUT TO SAY THAT YOU'RE NOT EVEN WILLING TO TRY...

THAT'S *UNACCEPTABLE,* FRANKLIN.

OKAY... I'LL DO MY *BEST.*

ARE YOU READY?

I'M READY.

GOOD.

NOW *FLY.*

DOOM

SO, THIS IS HOW THE WORLD DIDN'T END.

SUPER.

BAD CELESTIALS FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE CAME TO KILL DADDY AND FUTURE ME AND FRANKLIN CAME BACK TO SAVE THE DAY.

WELL, ACTUALLY, IT WAS MORE LIKE FUTURE ME STOOD AROUND AND WATCHED FRANKLIN DO ALL THE GOOD DEEDS.

SO, YOU KNOW, NOW I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH *THIS* FOR A WHILE...

SO...WHO'S AWESOME?
ME!
IT'S ME!
I. AM. AWESOME!
WE TOTALLY CRUSHED THOSE SPACE GODS.
AND I'VE GOT A BEARD. IS IT ITCHY?
NOT REALLY.
OKAY, I'M GOING TO CALL YOU *MISTER FRANKLIN.*
ONLY IF I CAN CALL YOU *KID FRANKLIN.*
COOL.
CAN I TELL YOU A SECRET?
SURE.
...I KNOW.
I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE THIS BEFORE, BUT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED MY OWN GALACTUS.
AWESOME!
SO THEY'RE HAPPY. AND GROSS. AND A BEARD, REALLY?
CONTRAST THAT WITH MY FUTURE ME-- THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT LADY I'M NOT SURE OF...
I DON'T THINK I LIKE HER. AT ALL.
RIGHT BACK AT YOU, KID.

SO...HEY, SOME DAY, RIGHT?

YOU'RE TELLIN' ME--I'M POOPED. I CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME AND GET IN MY OWN BED AND...

WAIT...

RIGHT. NO BED FOR YOU.

CRAP. WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?

HEY, I'VE GOT A BIG SHIP.

AWWWWW...I DON'T WANNA SLEEP WITH A BUNCHA BUGS ALL OVER THE--

AHEM.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO--IT'S JUST LIKE I TELL THE KIDS...

YOU WRECK YOUR ROOM, YOU CLEAN YOUR MESS.

BUT...BUT WE TRASHED ALL OF NEW YORK.

THEN WE BETTER GET STARTED.

BUT FIRST...

ONE DAY, IT WILL ALL END.

SUNS WILL DIE AND WORLDS WILL WITHER AS THE UNIVERSE BEGINS TO COOL.

THE *HEAT DEATH* OF THE EVERYTHING.

FOR *SO LONG*, I HAVE THOUGHT I WOULD FACE IT BY MYSELF.

BUT NOW, YOU KNOW BETTER.

I WILL BE THERE, STANDING BESIDE YOU--WE WILL WATCH AS ALL THAT ***HAS BEEN*** WILL BECOME SOMETHING NEW.

THE BIRTH OF A NEW UNIVERSE.

STILL...BUCK UP, BIG GUY... WE'VE GOT BILLIONS OF YEARS UNTIL WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

I DREADED... FEARED...THE RETURN OF SOLITUDE-- OF BEING ALONE. FOREVER.

I NEVER IMAGINED THIS IS WHAT YOU COULD BECOME.

WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER...

UNION OCCURS FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD.

AND, GALEN?

YES, FRANKLIN?

BE THANKFUL THAT YOU NEVER ATE THE EARTH.

LISTEN, IF YOU ASK ME, THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH UPSIDE TO BEING A SUPER HERO.

ONE WEEK LATER.
AN ALMOST CLEAN ROOM.

OUUFF!

WE'VE SET UP SEVERAL TEMPORARY SHELTERS, BUT THINGS ARE GOING SO WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL ONLY BE OCCUPIED FOR A FEW MORE DAYS.

UH-HUH. THIS IS ACTUALLY THE LAST OF THE HEAVY DEBRIS...

ARE WE SURE THAT--

IT'S FINE, CAP...

"DUMPING ALL THE WRECKAGE INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE SAVES US A BUNCH OF TIME HERE AND ACTUALLY PROVIDES RESOURCES FOR THE REBUILDING THERE.

"IT'S AN ENTIRE CIVILIZATION BASED ON SCAVENGING-- THIS IS LIKE A GOLD MINE FOR THEM."

WELL, OKAY THEN. WHAT'S NEXT?

NOW, WE GET OUR HOME BACK.

BE-BOOP

SERIOUSLY, THINK ABOUT IT...

YOU BASICALLY HAVE TO FIGHT SOMEONE EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK, AND THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO...

...YOUR SECRET BASE, YOUR SUPER HEADQUARTERS, OR YOUR HOME GETTING DESTROYED THREE, MAYBE FOUR, TIMES A YEAR.

AND, SURE, IT GETS REBUILT, BUT YOU LOSE ALL THE COOL STUFF YOU HAD, UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE A SAFE HOUSE OR AN OFF-SITE SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX.

LIKE THEY GIVE THOSE TO PRESCHOOLERS...

SERIOUSLY. SUPER HERODOM PRETTY MUCH SUCKS, BUT, YAH!--I'VE GOT AN EMPTY ROOM BACK...

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING IN THE WORLD THAT FEELS BETTER THAN BUILDING SOMETHING.

...DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN FOR A SECOND THAT I'M GROUNDED.

OKAY, SO...

WE'VE CHANGED A FEW THINGS.

EACH OF YOU WILL HAVE YOUR OWN, MORE PERSONALIZED QUARTERS.

UNTIL THE BUILDING GETS DESTROYED AGAIN. COUNTDOWN READS: THREE MONTHS, TWENTY-SIX DAYS UNTIL IT ALL FALLS DOWN.

SO, I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE SURROUNDINGS A BIT MORE COMFORTABLE.

I BET THEY POOP IN THAT WATER.

THE LAYOUT HAS CHANGED, SO AS SOON AS YOU GET THE CHANCE, PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE UPDATED FLOORPLAN.

WE DON'T WANT ANYONE MISSING DINNER BECAUSE THEY GOT STUCK IN THE ZERO GRAVITY ROOM.

AND, OF COURSE, SUSAN AND I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT A SLIGHT MODIFICATION TO THE FUTURE FOUNDATION UNIFORMS...

A LITTLE PERSONAL BRANDING FOR EACH OF YOU.

HEH! THIRTEEN, LOSERS.

SUCK IT.

OH, BY THE WAY... WHEN I'M OLD ENOUGH, I'M TOTALLY GOING TO KISS HIM.

AND, FINALLY, ONE LAST THING...

A SURPRISE LESSON--A VERY IMPORTANT ONE ABOUT PERSPECTIVE.

WHAT?!

AFTER ALL OF *THIS*, YOU WANT US TO HAVE CLASS?! WE NEED A BREAK! WE NEED DINNER! WE NEED A BED!

SLEEP IS COMMON ACTIVITY, BENTLEY. EDUCATION IS CULTURE...IMPROVE YOURSELF, AND YOU IMPROVE THE WORLD.

LOOK, I'M BEAT TOO, BUT THIS IS WHY WE'RE HERE.

INDEED IT IS, ALEX.

AND I THINK YOU'LL LIKE THIS.

WHOA!

LOOK!

OKAY...SO MAYBE THERE'S A SLIGHT UPSIDE.

EVERYONE, WELCOME TO ***FOUNDATION,*** THE ORBITAL SPACE STATION/ EDUCATION FACILITY IN GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT ABOVE THE BAXTER BUILDING.

I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU-- ALONG WITH MYSELF--ARE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN THINGS LIKE STELLAR CARTOGRAPHY, XENOBIOLOGY, INTERPLANETARY PROPULSION SYSTEMS...

THIS IS WHERE WE'LL DO THAT WORK. AND, OF COURSE, STARE AT THE STARS...

GO LOOK AROUND--ENJOY YOURSELVES. THERE'S FOOD IN THE FRIDGE.

I SEE THEY PARKED YOUR SHIP OUTSIDE.

YEAH, SOME OF MY GUYS ARE HELPING REED UNTIL THEY CAN COMPLETELY FIGURE OUT HOW TO STAFF THIS PLACE.

PLUS, YOU KNOW, NO ONE SCREWS WITH A SPACE STATION THAT HAS A GIANT BATTLE CRUISER IN DOCK.

SO, ARE YOU GOING TO STAY UP HERE OR AT THE BAXTER BUILDING?

I DUNNO, MAYBE NEITHER... I KIND OF FEEL LIKE I SHOULD DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT. YOU EVER GET THAT?

PFFSSH. I SWEAR, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DEAL WITH *ALL THIS* SOMETIMES. DO WHAT I DO--RUN HOME TO YOUR APARTMENT--

OKAY. SURE.

THAT MIGHT BE WHAT I NEED.

HUH?

SURE. I'LL BE HAPPY TO *MOVE IN.*

IT'LL BE NICE. FUN.

FUN AND NICE.

WUUUHHHH...

EXACTLY! ROOMMATES.

THAT'S PRETTY COOL, RIGHT?

...

I GUESS.

LATER. THE BAXTER BUILDING.

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT BEING GROUNDED?

HAVE A SEAT, YOUNG LADY.

LET'S HAVE A LITTLE TALK.

OKAY.

NOW, YOUR GRANDFATHER HAS EXPLAINED THE HOWS AND WHYS OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED...

THE NECESSITY OF IT ALL--THE *NEED* TO *DECEIVE.*

THE PROBLEM IS, THIS *CANNOT* BE AN ONGOING THING WITH YOU. THAT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

NOBODY LIKES BAD GIRLS, KIDDO.

WELL...

STOP.

RIGHT.

WHAT BEN SAID.

THE POINT IS, WE EXPECT MORE OUT OF YOU, VALERIA.

THE VERY BEST.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'LL BE BETTER.

DO YOU PROMISE, VAL?

YES, DAD...

I WON'T KEEP ANY MORE SECRETS. EVER.

I PROMISE...

I SWEAR.

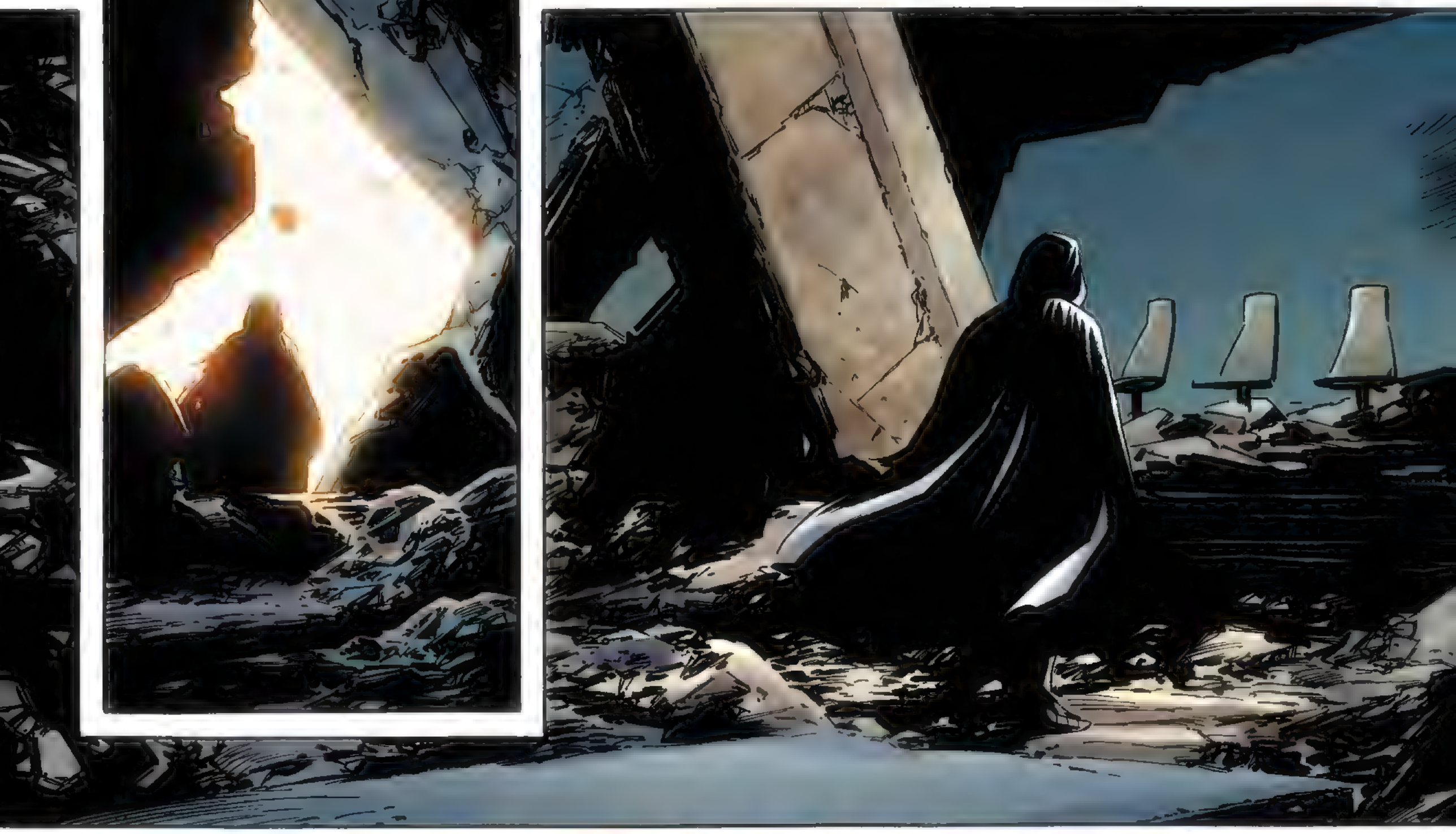
THROUGH THE BRIDGE. THE FALL OF DOOM.

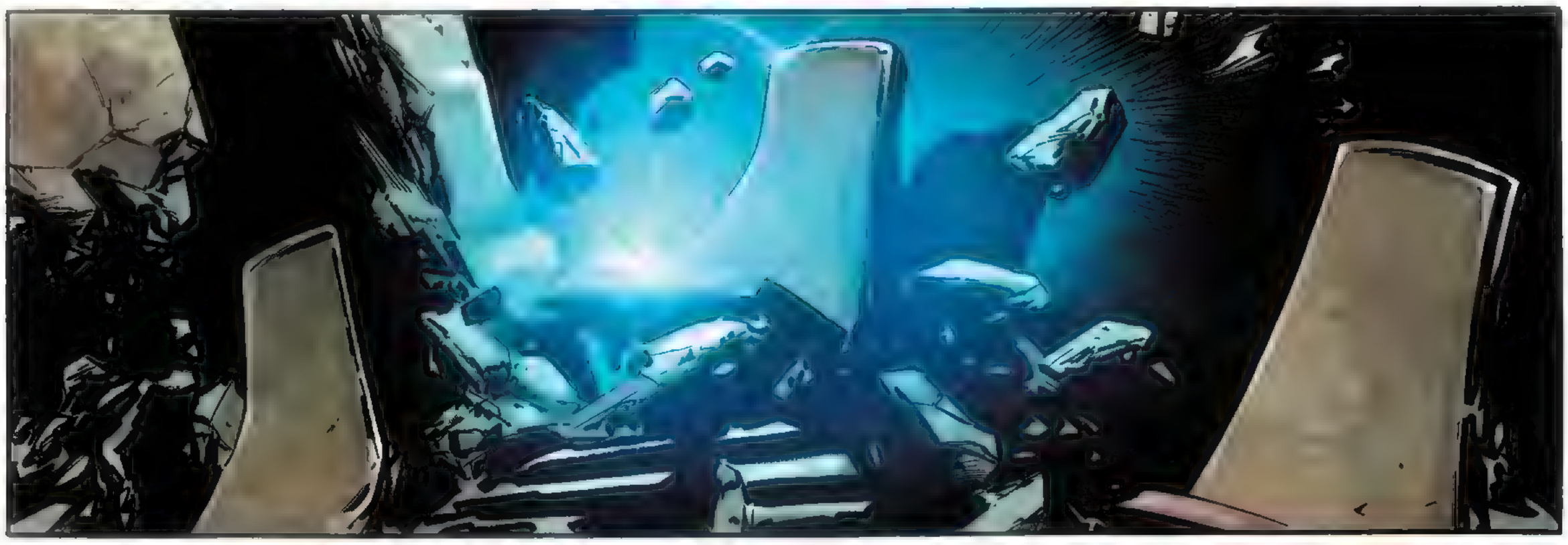
FIND A WAY, UNCLE DOOM...

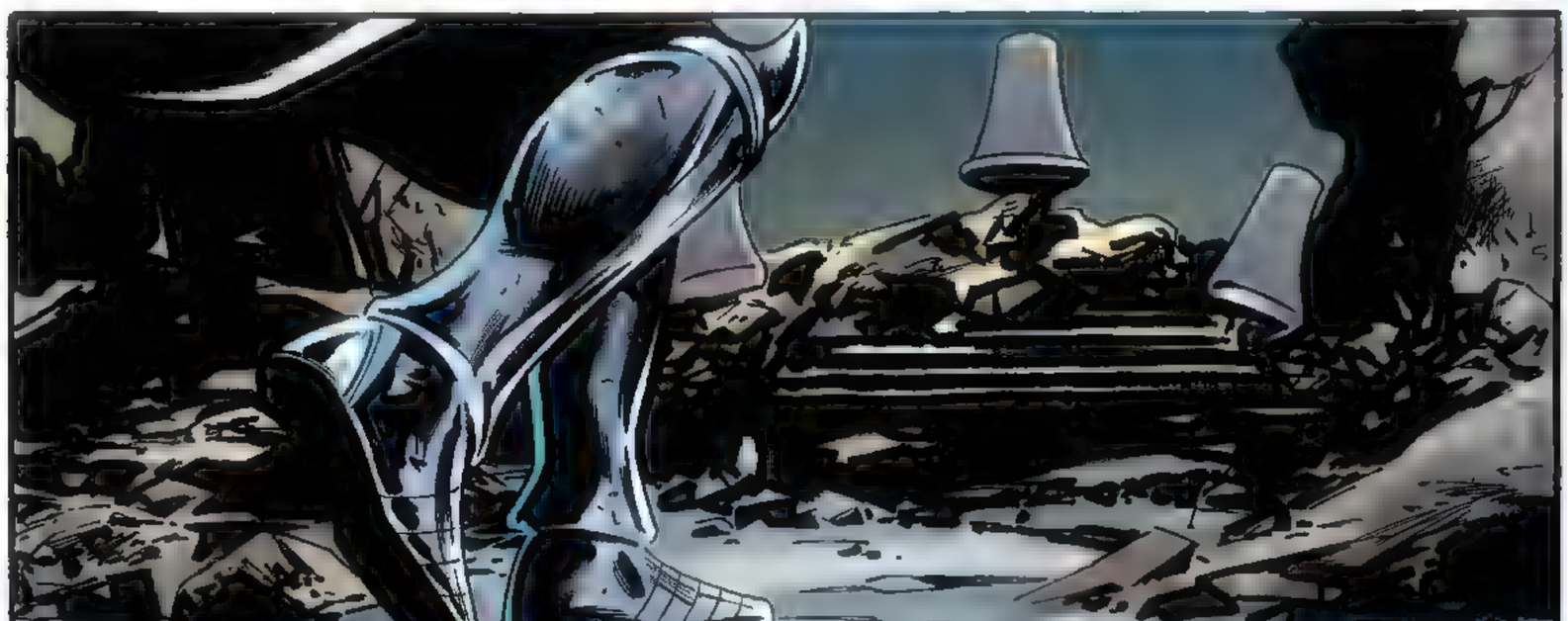
STAY ALIVE.

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THERE...SOMETHING *WORTH THE COST...*

"OUR SECRET--A *GIFT* FROM *ME*... JUST FOR *YOU*."







DOOM?

DOOM.
DOOM.
DOOM.
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
YES...

POOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
HERE, I CAN BUILD.

THE PARLIAMENT OF DOOM

COVER GALLERY

FF #6 COVER: **MARK BAGLEY, ANDY LANNING & PAUL MOUNTS**

FF #7 COVER: **MARK BAGLEY, ANDY LANNING & PAUL MOUNTS**

FF #8 COVER: **DANIEL ACUÑA**

FF #9 COVER: DANIEL ACUÑA

FF #10-11 COMBINED COVERS **STEVE EPTING**

FF #12 COVER: STEVE EPTING

FF #13 COVER: **MIKE CHOI & GURU-eFX**

FF #14 COVER: MIKE CHOI & GURU-eFX

FF #15 COVER: **MIKE CHOI & GURU-eFX**

FF #16 COVER: MIKE CHOI & GURU-eFX

FANTASTIC FOUR #600 COVER: GABRIELE DELL'OTTO

FANTASTIC FOUR #601 COVER:

MIKE CHOI & MORRY HOLLOWELL

FANTASTIC FOUR #602 COVER: **MIKE CHOI & MORRY HOLLOWELL**

FANTASTIC FOUR #603 COVER: **MIKE CHOI & MORRY HOLLOWELL**

FANTASTIC FOUR #604 COVER: **MIKE CHOI & GURU-eFX**

FANTASTIC FOUR #600 VARIANT: **JOHN ROMITA JR., KLAUS JANSON & DEAN WHITE**

FANTASTIC FOUR #600 VARIANT: **ARTHUR ADAMS & PETER STEIGERWALD**

FANTASTIC FOUR #600 VARIANT

JOE QUESADA, DANNY MIKI & LAURA MARTIN

FANTASTIC FOUR #600 SKETCH VARIANT

JOE QUESADA & DANNY MIKI

FANTASTIC FOUR #601 & FF #13 COMBINED VARIANTS
GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI & MARTE GRACIA

FANTASTIC FOUR #601 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT: RON GARNEY

FANTASTIC FOUR #602 VENOM VARIANT: **KALMAN ANDRASOFSZKY**

FF #9 FANTASTIC FOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT: **STÉPHANE PERGER**

FF #12 FANTASTIC FOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT: SKOTTIE YOUNG

FF #12 VARIANT: **GABRIELE DELL'OTTO**

MICHAEL RYAN &
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR

FF #15 VARIANT: **JUNE BRIGMAN, ROY RICHARDSON & CHRISTINA STRAIN**

4

X-MEN #7 FANTASTIC FOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT: PAOLO RIVERA

X-MEN LEGACY #245 FANTASTIC FOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT: **PAOLO RIVERA**

FEAR ITSELF #1 FANTASTIC FOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT **PAOLO RIVERA**

X-MEN GIANT-SIZE #1 FANTASTIC FOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT:

SIMONE BIANCHI, ANDREA SILVESTRI & SIMONE PERUZZI

JONATHAN HICKMAN'S LANDMARK RUN CONTINUES HERE!

The War of Four Cities escalates as Black Bolt returns, determined to reclaim his throne — and the conflict expands to encompass the entire Marvel Universe! The Human Torch is back, and Marvel's First Family is reunited — just in time to end up caught between the Kree Empire and the Negative Zone's fearsome Annihilation Wave! And if that weren't enough, Galactus has arrived to judge the world! But as the battle between the Council of Reeds and the Future Foundation extends through the Bridge and spills over into our world, Galactus takes on a group of rogue Celestials! And now the Fantastic Four and their extended family must make their final stand. Discover exactly how Doctor Doom and the Future Foundation will save us all!

Collecting *FF (2011) #6-16* and *Fantastic Four (1998) #600-604* — written by Jonathan Hickman; and illustrated Greg Tocchini, Steve Epting, Barry Kitson, Juan Bobillo, Nick Dragotta, Carmine Di Giandomenico and more.

MARVEL